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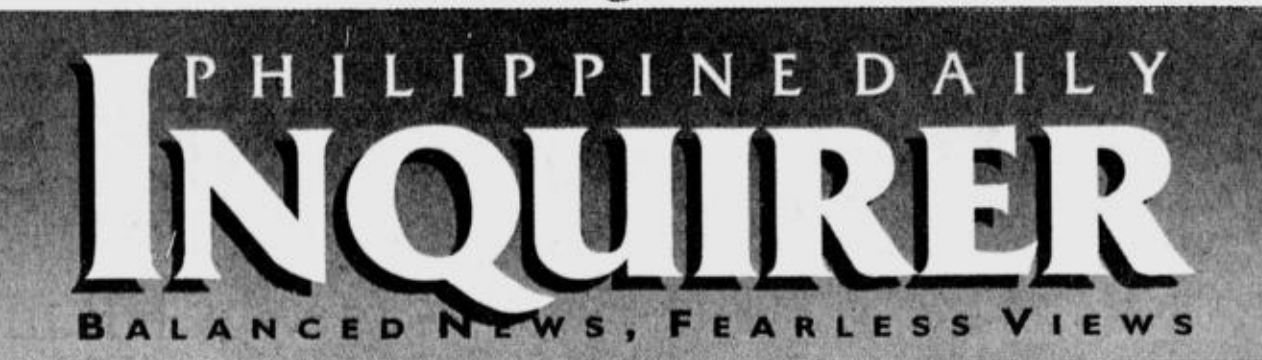
If they ain't real, don't take them with you to US



By Volt Contreras and Nikko Dizon
BRINGING IN LOUIS VUITTON bags or DVDs to the United States? They had better be the genuine articles.

IF THEY/ A6

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Saturday, October 8, 2005 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 302

P18

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US spy probe widens

Michael Ray Aquino indicted; Aragoncillo seeks plea agreement



THE APPLE OF HER EYE. President Arroyo receives a warm welcome from Apple Isidra Tortosa, who, at 105 years old is the oldest member of the Simbayanan ni Maria Development cooperative center in Lower Bicutan, Taguig City where Ms Arroyo is guest of honor at its inauguration on Friday.

GMA calls opponents coup plotters, thieves

By Christine O. Avendaño, TJ Burgonio and Leila B. Salaverria

CALLING THEM COUP PLOTTERS and thieves, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday accused her opponents of seeking to destroy Philippine relations with the United States in trying to bring her down.

Ms Arroyo was reacting to US news reports that former intelligence analyst Leandro Aragoncillo, detained in the United States for alleged spying, had not only stolen Federal Bureau of Investigation files but also documents allegedly damaging to her from the office of US Vice President Dick Cheney.

Speaking at a regional cooperative summit in Koronadal, South Cotabato, Ms Arroyo said that among the documents Aragoncillo allegedly passed to the "coup plotters" was the controversial lobbying contract signed by Na-

tional Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales with the US law firm Venable LLP.

She said the contract had become a subject of a Senate investigation "against me."

"I thank the US government that on the day I landed in New York last September, they arrested and exposed the robbers of classified information," she said.

"Imagine, they are even prepared to go to the extent of destroying Philippine-American relations just to serve their ambition for power," Ms Arroyo said. "But they have been caught," she added.

US investigation into the theft of FBI files about the Philippines could be politically damaging to Ms Arroyo, retired Navy Commodore Rex Robles warned.

Robles said that if ever Aragoncillo and former Philippine police official Michael Ray Aquino

GMA CALLS/ A4

IN THE KNOW

An indictment is a formal accusation issued by a grand jury after considering a proposed charge and evidence. Indictment does not mean the accused is guilty, only that there is a probability that a crime was committed and that the accused should be tried. In criminal cases, a grand jury indictment is the first step, after arrest, in any formal prosecution of a felony.

A federal grand jury, which is composed of 16-23 people, does not investigate civil matters. It investigates and brings charges for federal crimes.

Jurors are selected by the court's Jury Management Office by drawing names or numbers out of a box, or using random selection programs on the computer.

Those chosen are then interviewed to make sure they are qualified to act fairly and impartially, and that they have no interest in the result of the case due to connections to or prior dealings with a party, witness or attorney involved.

Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research

WASHINGTON—THE White House pledged Thursday to cooperate with investigators in the widening spy probe involving alleged theft of classified documents about the Philippines, as federal prosecutors indicted former Filipino police official Michael Ray Aquino for spying.

FBI agents examined computers in Vice President Dick Cheney's office and talked to former and current White House aides amid concerns about the FBI's vulnerabilities in protecting its secrets.

Aquino, 39, was charged with conspiring with ex-FBI officer Leandro Aragoncillo, 46, to pass on classified documents to Philippine officials, and acting as an unregistered foreign agent.

If convicted, Aquino faces up to 10 years in prison.

The classified documents, including assessments of Philippine politicians, some of which are allegedly damaging to Ms Arroyo, were reportedly used by her opponents to try to unseat her.

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press, Estrada said he received documents from Aragoncillo but he did not think they contained classified information.

"He was just describing how America sees the Philippines," Estrada said. "I don't think that is classified. It pertains to graft and corruption, the First Gentleman [Arroyo's husband]."

Estrada said he received about six reports from Aragoncillo and compared the documents with reports diplomats normally send back home. "I don't think that's espionage," he said.

"He's a kind person," Estrada said of Aragoncillo. "He's a good family man. He has two children."

Estrada said Aragoncillo communicated with him by mail and also spoke with him on his birthday.

The Washington Post, which

US SPY/ A4



SIGNATURE YELLOW. Former President Cory Aquino carries on with her prayer campaign for peace and the enlightenment of President Arroyo to make the "ultimate sacrifice," at the Miraculous Medal Parish in Proj. 4, Quezon City on Friday.

Check arms shipment, Biazon urges military

By TJ Burgonio

A SHIPMENT OF ARMS IS "COMING" to the Philippines and should be checked by the Armed Forces in view of a US report that civilian groups are ready to protect President Macapagal-Arroyo against a coup attempt, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said yesterday.

Citing several sources, Biazon said he had received "raw information" that weapons from "abroad" would be shipped to Manila. "I think the AFP should now monitor the possibility of the entry of weapons. Because there

CHECK/ A4

UN nuclear agency, head win Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO, NORWAY—MOHAMED ElBaradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency that he heads won the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize Friday for their efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

ElBaradei, an Egyptian lawyer, has led the UN nuclear agency as it grappled with the crises in Iraq and the ongoing efforts to prevent North Korea and Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

"Everyone who has contributed to the IAEA has a part in this important prize," Nobel committee chairman Ole Danbolt Mjoes said as he announced the prize.

The Nobel committee was recognizing "their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used

UN NUCLEAR/ A6



THE CHAIR of the Norwegian Nobel committee, Ole Danbolt Mjoes, holds the picture of Director General Mohamed ElBaradei.

US offers \$11M for 2 Indon bombers in RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE UNITED STATES YESTERDAY placed a total of \$11 million in prizes on the heads of two Indonesian Islamic militants blamed for the 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia, and said both men were hiding in Mindanao.

"The United States is determined to bring these men to justice for their crimes," the US Embassy said in a statement after the US Department of State offered \$10 million for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Dulmatin, one of the alleged

masterminds of the Bali bombings, and \$1 million for Umar Patek. Both are members of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah terror group.

The bounty on Dulmatin is the second highest reward offered for a wanted person after the \$25 million offered by the United States for Osama bin Laden and Iraq insurgency leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Dulmatin is described as an electronics specialist that trained in al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan while Patek is believed to have acted as assistant to the field coordinator of the 2002 Bali

bombings, which killed 202 people and wounded hundreds of others.

The US Embassy said the bounty, under Washington's Rewards for Justice Program, is part of cooperative efforts between the United States and the Philippines in fighting terrorism.

"Ordinary citizens of the Philippines or elsewhere may have information that can help bring these terrorists to justice. We encourage anyone with information to contact the US Embassy in the Philippines, any US military commander, any US Em-

US OFFERS/ A8



DULMATIN: Second highest reward after Osama bin Laden. AFP

Colonel eyes move from arms to farm

By Fe Zamora

IN A WORST-CASE SCENARIO OF DISMISSAL from military service for disobedience, this Marine can fall back on his rice farm in Zaragosa, Nueva Ecija.

After all, Lt. Col. Alex Balutan said in a phone interview yesterday morning, "magsasaka lamang ako, tahimik ang

buhay (I'm just a farmer with a simple life)," and reverting to his "origins" would not be too hard.

Balutan faces a possible court-martial for disobeying orders not to testify at a Senate committee hearing late last month. The hearing began the inquiry into the national security implications of the "Hello, Garci" wiretapping scandal, which involves alleged fraud in

the 2004 presidential election.

A conviction in the military court will end Balutan's career, which started with his graduation from the Philippine Military Academy in 1983.

He turns 45 on Oct. 17, and will not be due for retirement until his 56th birthday in 2016.

COLONEL/ A6

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ) across Luzon. The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PD/RESEARCH/10/07/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laosag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Moratorium on protests sought

Cry at Plaza Miranda: Bring back Estrada

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE THEME WAS PREDICTABLE when 1,000 loyalists of deposed President Estrada converged in the historic Plaza Miranda yesterday, marked only by the sparseness of the police presence.

The rally presented an old equation to resolve the political crisis: oust President Macapagal-Arroyo, bring back the jailed Estrada.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, a staunch supporter of Ms Arroyo, apparently allowed the protesters to use the plaza, a designated freedom park, until 8 p.m.

Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, director of the Manila Police, said there was a minimal deployment of policemen because he believed the ralliers would stick by the provisions of the permit issued by the city government.

Unlike anti-Arroyo rallies in



PAYBACK time, or so it would seem from this picture of a group of demonstrators assembled in front of the Mercury Drugstore in Quiapo where money is freely passed around. REM ZAMORA

the past few days, this one was so uneventful anti-riot policemen could be seen sleeping in the two police cars that were sent to oversee it.

From his rest house at his Tanay estate, Estrada sent a statement read to rabid applause from members and supporters of his Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino party.

"Even if I'm being gagged by the government, you can be sure that I will still be at the forefront of the struggle for the poor Filipino," he said in Filipino.

He claimed that the country was now under virtual martial

rule with the implementation of Executive Order 464 which bars senior government and military officials from appearing in congressional hearings without the consent of the President.

His supporters said the only solution was to kick out Ms Arroyo and allow Estrada to continue his six-year term that was aborted by the second people power uprising of 2001.

The rally gathered key opposition figures like Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and former senator Vicente Sotto III, Mayors Jejomar Binay of Makati and Jose Victor Ejercito of San Juan.

Political analyst Renato Constantino Jr., lawyer Alan Pagua and Fr. Larry Faraon, a vocal Estrada supporter from the clergy, joined delegations from the United Opposition, People's Movement Against Poverty, Asalam party list group, and the FPJ Volunteers Brigade.

Holding banners and placards bearing pictures of Estrada, protesters shouted "Erap pa rin" (Erap forever) and "Gloria out, Erap pa rin" even as hundreds of devotees of the Black Nazarene went about their regular Friday "Simbang Quiapo" activities. *With a report from Margaux C. Ortiz*

CHR move hailed, jeered

By Norman Bordadora, Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS YESTERDAY appealed to rally organizers and leaders to observe a moratorium on street protests. It also asked the government to restore its maximum tolerance policy on protests.

Officials of the CHR issued the appeal pending the commission's consultative meetings with law enforcement authorities regarding the calibrated pre-emptive response policy and with Metro Manila mayors on the designation of freedom parks where demonstrations can be held without any permit.

"Upon the recommendation of CHR Commissioner Wilhelm Soriano, the commission en banc yesterday agreed to appeal to organizers and leaders as well as the NGOs (non-government organizations) to observe moratorium on rallies and street demos while the CHR is in the process of conferring with Metro Manila mayors on the designation of freedom parks as well as their call for dialogue with the leadership of the PNP," said CHR chair Purificacion Quisumbing in a statement.

Quisumbing said the moratorium should take effect while the CHR pursues such dialogues.

"In the last four days, our observation was that the rallies were no longer being (to air the protesters' grievances) but a test of wills. (The police and the protesters) were already just testing each other's wills," said Soriano.

"It is due to this situation that the designation of freedom parks in the Metro becomes impera-

tive," he added.

Quisumbing has called for a consultative meeting next week with "relevant government agencies," NGOs, and civil society groups to define guidelines regarding CPR and even local governments' "no permit, no rally" policy.

CHR's call for a moratorium on street protests got the support of proadministration lawmakers.

Representatives Federico Sandoval II (LP, Malabon-Navotas) and Benasing Macarambon (NPC, Lanao del Sur), both members of the committee on public order and security, urged protesters to challenge the CPR policy in the courts, and not the streets.

Sandoval and Macarambon cited "the negative impact brought about by the rallies on the country's image, economy and peace and order situation."

They hoped the issue of the CPR policy's legality would be settled at the soonest possible time.

But CHR's statement was assailed by Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño.

"That's ridiculous, coming from a body tasked to look after our rights," said Casiño in a phone interview.

He said the moratorium should be on the violent dispersals, not rallies.

Batangas gov denies hand in missing ballots

By Jerome Aning

BATANGAS GOVERNOR ARMANDO Sanchez yesterday rejected insinuations that his camp had something to do with the ballot boxes which were found empty during the recount of the election results in the province sought by his rival Rosario Apacible.

In a related development, Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. told reporters that the poll body was investigating how the ballot boxes were emptied and if former Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano had something to do with it.

In an order dated Sept. 28, Comelec's Second Division, which is hearing Apacible's recount petition, gave the election officers and treasurers of Batangas City and Padre Garcia 10 days to "look into the whereabouts" of the missing ballots and submit their report.

Sixty-one ballot boxes—59 from Padre Garcia and one each from Batangas City and Lemery—were found empty of their contents when opened during the recount.

Apacible had accused Sanchez's camp of massive vote buying and other forms of cheat-

ing to win. Her petition to stop the recount was granted Sept. 21.

But Sanchez's counsel Romulo Macalintal said his client won the gubernatorial race "fair and square" and that Sanchez' 62,000 vote lead was "unassailable."

In a phone interview, Macalintal said it would be "highly incredible and very impossible" for Sanchez to be involved in the disappearance of the boxes' contents.

"It would to his disadvantage if he [plotted to lose] the ballots since opening the boxes would show that he clearly won in all these contested areas," he explained to the INQUIRER.

The lawyer added that the empty ballot boxes only represented 3,000 to 5,000 votes and will "never affect" Sanchez's lead.

Macalintal accused Apacible's camp of using the ballots' disappearance to cast doubt on his client's victory.

"They're using this incident as a scapegoat to terminate the process, knowing that they really had no evidence [of fraud] and therefore would lose their protest," he explained.

Army chief orders troops to arrest coup plotters

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

AS RUMORS SWIRLED OF FRESH coup plots, the Army top brass yesterday ordered troops to report and arrest anyone found recruiting soldiers for "destabilization" moves against the Arroyo administration.

"That's the order. If they resist arrest and shoot us, we will shoot back," Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said after an inspection of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division based in Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal.

Esperon issued the order shortly after the 2nd ID commander,

Maj. Gen. Efren Orbon announced that he has instructed his field commanders to arrest-or-shoot coup plotters.

In a phone interview from Tanay, Esperon said the arresting officers would shoot if the suspected recruiters are armed and if they resist arrest.

"This is SOP (standard operating procedure). They are in the act of recruiting soldiers [to turn] against the government," added Esperon, who assumed command of the 75,000-strong Philippine Army last Aug. 18. *With a report from Reuters*

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FESTIVAL Highlights

Date	Activity	Venue
Oct. 7-8	4th Masskara-Mayor's Age Cup Swimming Competition	Sta. Fe Resort
Oct. 13	Sexy Thursday	Pepe's Bar and Restaurant
Oct. 14	MYMP Concert	Grand Ballroom, Bacolod Convention
Oct. 15	SMART Buddy FiestAmazing Fair Variety Show & Dating Game featuring Troy Montero & Jeni Hernandez SMART Buddy FiestAmazing Concert featuring Brownman Revival	La Salle Coliseum

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Check arms ...

From page A1

is a certain report that some weapons are coming into the country," he said at a briefing.

Biazon may have been referring to former US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli's assessment report which came out in the *INQUIRER* on Sept. 18, 2005. It mentioned Ms Arroyo as having supporters—who could likewise be armed—who she could count on aside from an "unreliable military."

The Mussomeli report was allegedly part of the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation pilfered by Fil-American Leandro Aragoncillo and passed on to Filipino officials.

Unreliable military

"Information on Macapagal-Arroyo's hardcore supporters, including how well armed or organized [they] are, also is impressive. Some reporting suggests, however, that Macapagal-Arroyo may depend on these groups rather than his (sic) unreliable military to defend her government," Mussomeli's report said.

Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, said he was so bothered by the report that he personally wanted to take it up with top military officials.

"I wish this can be denied by the military to allay the fears of our people. That specific portion of the report of the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) should be checked," he said.

The senator, a former AFP chief, could not provide other details, such as the purpose of the supposed shipment, the group for which it was intended, and the type of arms involved, among others.

"I would like to consolidate more information because it has something to do with the stability of this country. But then again, I can't just disregard this," he said.

Civilians

Biazon stressed the urgency for the AFP to monitor the supposed shipment.

"Included in the report is that there are civilian followers who are ready to defend GMA (Ms Arroyo) in the event of the military mounting a coup d'etat. To me, the implications of that is there is a possibility of a civil war," he

said, adding:

"How do you fight the mounting of a coup d'etat? You challenge the Armed Forces with what?"

He expressed doubt that terror groups would import arms, noting that they moved in "small groups."

Biazon made the disclosure amid persistent coup rumors, which came on the heels of reports that Malacañang was considering emergency rule in view of escalating protest actions over the unresolved charges of electoral fraud in 2004.

Retired Navy Commodore Rex Robles said there were several groups that would want to import arms, like the communist New People's Army, the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and terror groups.

"[But] if we're thinking of soldiers, that's far-fetched. Everything they need is here, and more," Robles said in a phone interview.

Robles was a member of the Reform the AFP Movement, which was involved in several coup attempts against then President Corason Aquino in the 1980s.

Private army

A well-placed source said that the President had her own "private army," and that it was possible this could be the group importing arms from abroad.

"She needs this as a counterforce. You need an armed group if you can't rely on your own military. Who knows, this might help," said the source who requested anonymity.

According to the source, the army was organized by a ranking Cabinet official a year ago and is composed of civilians from a broad spectrum of society, including members of armed labor groups doing mercenary missions.

"But you can't begrudge her for that. Presidents plan on having their own personalized, customized armed groups," the source said, pointing out that President Ferdinand Marcos tapped businessman Eduardo Cojuangco's own private army while Cory Aquino relied on the private army in the family-owned Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac during their respective terms.

"It's a mercenary army formed not out of loyalty, but out of an expectation of monetary reward," the source said.

US spy probe widens

From page A1

also talked to Estrada, said that according to the former President, the document he received from Aragoncillo originated at the US Embassy in Manila.

Estrada's account provides further evidence that Aragoncillo may have stolen US documents while he worked as a military security official in Cheney's, the Post said.

Federal prosecutors in Newark did not seek an indictment against Aragoncillo because he was negotiating a plea agreement, court records show.

No plea bargain

Aquino lawyer Mark A. Berman said his client rejected a plea deal.

"There's a fundamental difference between Aragoncillo and Aquino," Berman said. "Aquino is not an FBI agent and had no reason to know that the information the government laid out in the indictment was classified."

Aquino, an ally of senior opposition politicians, was arrested at his New York residence on Sept. 10. He is accused of passing 150 classified and sensitive documents to three unnamed public figures in the Philippines.

According to the indictment, Aragoncillo passed classified documents to Aquino between February and August this year using cell phone text and e-mail messages.

The Philippine-born Aragoncillo was also arrested on Sept. 10 and is accused of using the agency's database to download the documents and giving them to Aquino.

Working with Gore, Cheney

The FBI said it was expanding its investigation of Aragoncillo, a 21-year US Marine veteran, to determine if he stole documents from the White House.

Aragoncillo started working at



ARAGONCILLO home in Woodbury, New Jersey

the White House in the vice president's office in 1999, while it was occupied by Al Gore, and worked there for 31 months. ABC News reported that Aragoncillo admitted to federal investigators that he had spied after Dick Cheney came to office.

Full cooperation

Aquino, a police intelligence officer, served directly under opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson when he was Philippine National Police chief in 1998-2001.

"It's an ongoing investigation. We will cooperate fully," said White House spokesperson Scott McClellan.

News reports quoted unidentified federal officials as saying Aragoncillo stole damaging dossiers from Cheney's office on Ms Arroyo.

Both the FBI and the White House declined to officially confirm any details of the ongoing probe.

"We follow wherever the investigation leads," said FBI Special Agent Steven Siegel.

Also with Clinton

According to the ABC television network, US officials are trying to figure out how Aragoncillo got his job at the White House in 1999, and when he started spying.

The former Marine told friends he also worked with former Presi-

dent Bill Clinton and with Condoleezza Rice when she was national security adviser, the network said.

FBI counter-espionage agents continued work inside Cheney's office Thursday, and some 35 past and present White House employees who worked with Aragoncillo are being questioned, according to ABC.

In July 2004, Aragoncillo began working as an FBI intelligence analyst at its Fort Monmouth Information Technology Center in New Jersey.

Access to FBI secrets

FBI spokesperson Rich Kolko would not confirm details of the investigation, but he said: "In the course of a logical investigation, the FBI will research the subject's entire career for whenever he had access to classified or sensitive information to see whether any illegal or improper activity took place."

Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff of California, a former federal prosecutor who handled an FBI spy case, said the Aragoncillo case raised questions about easy access to classified materials and how long the naturalized US citizen was able to pass on sensitive information before he was stopped.

"If the complaint is accurate, there is a wealth of evidence which makes it all the more surprising he went undiscovered as long as he did, because it was not a very so-

phisticated operation," Schiff said.

Aragoncillo's public defender, Chester M. Keller, declined to say if his client was cooperating with investigators. "It's just too sensitive right now," Keller said.

FBI overhaul

But the New York Times reported unnamed officials as saying that Aragoncillo was cooperating in the investigation.

The investigation of Aragoncillo has stirred concerns about FBI vulnerability to internal espionage.

After the Robert Hanssen spy scandal in 2001, the FBI undertook a major overhaul of its internal security to prevent employees from pilfering secret records.

Among the measures was the increased use of internal computer audits to spot employees like Hanssen who might be reading records they had no reason to review.

But Aragoncillo appears to have done just that for months without being noticed, officials say.

Security breaches

Law enforcement and national security experts said that they were alarmed by the prospect that, more than three years after the Hanssen case uncovered deep breaches in security at the bureau, a new analyst appears to have been able to exploit its database so easily and might not have been caught if not for a lucky break.

Hanssen navigated the computer system undetected for years to search for top secret national security information that he sold to the Russians.

Tougher controls and audits on computer use to limit access to those employees with a "need to know" were subsequently instituted. *Reports from Reuters, AP and NY Times News Service*

GMA calls opponents coup plotters, thieves

From page A1

went on trial for spying, the court would require the presentation of the files and "more damaging" dossiers on the Arroyo administration would surface.

"More people will learn that the US doesn't like Gloria," Robles, who had been linked to coup attempts in the 1980s, said in a phone interview. "Whether genuine or not, the spy case doesn't look good for Gloria's future."

Robles, now head of the security management consultancy RCR, also wondered why the United States had not taken steps to repair the damage to the Arroyo administration caused by the disclosure of the contents of the FBI documents.

The mystery

"The mystery is this: Why is the US not attempting to mitigate the effects of the negative reports ... if they want to appear neutral?" he said.

"How come they have not given any assurance that these are just raw assessments that will have to go through a process for a general report that will result in a policy statement?"

Robles maintained his earlier theory that the US used Aragoncillo as an excuse to release documents "that it couldn't release otherwise" and send a message to the Arroyo administration.

Robles voiced doubts that the FBI would leave Aragoncillo in the lurch.

"In espionage, you don't just burn a high-ranking, competent agent like him," he said.

Robles also said that knowing they would have US support would boost the morale of plotters against an administration.

"If you knew that the US supports what you are doing, it will make you bolder," Robles said, explaining the significance of the supposedly derogatory assessments of Ms Arroyo contained in the FBI files believed to have been prepared by the US Embassy in Manila.

The embassy has neither confirmed nor denied the allegation.

"Without looking into motives, [the files] present to a wider public how the US looks at [Ms Arroyo]," Robles said.

DOJ: Trace money trail

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to trace any money trail leading from the Philippines to Aragoncillo and Aquino.

The investigation might also include figures from the opposition, especially those who have admitted receiving documents from Aragoncillo and Aquino, he said.

Gonzalez's one-page directive to the NBI said: "You are ... directed to start tracing the

money trail coming from the Philippines to Mr. Aragoncillo and Aquino, which will eventually establish the conspiracy between the duo and supposed ranking Filipino officials."

"Please include in your investigation private groups/officials who might be involved in funding this treasonous activities against the Philippines," it added.

"My theory is there should be a money trail here ... In the history of espionage, there is always money involved," he added.

The NBI said it had started looking into reports that some members of the opposition had paid Aragoncillo to help bring down the Arroyo administration by pilfering sensitive US government files.

"Based on media reports, it appears that Aragoncillo is a mercenary working for the opposition to supply them with classified documents from the White House," NBI Interpol Division chief Ricardo Diaz told reporters.

Diaz said the NBI's initial findings showed that Aragoncillo was hired by a high-ranking member of the opposition who introduced him as "my man in the CIA."

"By using a spy, the opposition may have irresponsibly jeopardized our relations with the US, our major ally," the NBI Interpol chief said.

Lacson's hope

Sen. Panfilo Lacson expressed hope that Aquino would be eventually acquitted.

"The US justice system is at work. All I can do is wait and hope that everything turns out well for him and [Leandro] Aragoncillo," Lacson said.

Aquino was Lacson's subordinate at the Philippine National Police when Lacson was its chief during the Estrada administration.

Lacson has admitted receiving e-mail messages from Aquino but said they were not classified information.

The senator said that, if at all, the news reports about Aragoncillo's caper should be an embarrassment to Ms Arroyo.

US fed up?

"I'm just wondering ... what message are they [US officials] trying to convey to the Arroyo government? That he [Aragoncillo] had been transmitting files damaging to her. Isn't that addressed to the Arroyo administration by the US government?" he said.

"Maybe the US government is also fed up with Gloria," Lacson said. *With Juliet Labog-Javellana Norman Borda, With Margaux C. Ortiz*

Gloria orders: Watch them

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS ORDERED a monitoring of the activities of "personalities and groups preoccupied with bringing down the administration," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

He said US news reports that confidential White House files dealing with the Philippines were among the documents allegedly pilfered by former FBI officer Leandro Aragoncillo were a cause for concern.

Ermita said on dzRH it was important

for the government to find out the truth behind these reports in order to "take care of our security and prevent these attempts to bring down the Arroyo administration."

Asked whether the President was concerned that her opponents had received classified information from Aragoncillo, Ermita replied in the affirmative.

"It's important that we also find out those in the opposition who are involved," he said.

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Suit vs Canadian mining firm a test case for RP

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE LAWSUIT AGAINST THE company that ran the Marcopper mines is a test case for the Philippine government, which is promoting "responsible mining" as the backbone of the country's economic development, a top environment official said yesterday.

Environment Undersecretary for Mining Rado Dimalibot said the government "recognized" the claim of the Marinduque provincial government against Placer Dome Inc. as legitimate, adding

its citizens had the right to sue the Canadian mining giant for damage done to the local environment.

Dimalibot said the cleanup and rehabilitation of the Marcopper mine sites, from which mine tailings flowed into two rivers in 1996, was crucial to the success of the revitalized Philippine mining industry.

"This is very crucial because even the private sector is affected. Other mining firms are having a hard time here because the issue of Marcopper is always raised

against them. They are also suffering because of what happened to Marcopper," Dimalibot said in a phone interview yesterday.

"This is what you might call a test case for us," he added.

He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources would also take Placer Dome and its local partner Marcopper Mining Corp. to court if the two companies refuse to rehabilitate the mine sites by yearend.

"We are talking now and we're trying to work together, but if they keep a stubborn stance and

do not rehabilitate soon, eventually we may reach that point," Dimalibot said.

A team composed of at least 16 experts from the private sector, Marcopper, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, the Chamber of Mines and the Department of Health is going to Marinduque this month for the engineering scoping of the mine sites and the dams holding the mine waste.

Michael V. Cabalda, chief of the MGB's Mining Environmental Safety division, said the team

would validate the rehabilitation proposed for the urgent problems identified by the government-commissioned US Geological Society study.

The USGS study listed the Maguila-guila dam, Tapan Pit 310, Tunnel 193 bulkhead final plug, the Bol River dam and both the Upper and Lower Makulapnit dams as needing the most urgent remediation.

"It's very important that Marcopper completes the rehabilitation because it will showcase our will to do things right, that we're

not just for the proliferation of mining but we want only those who can handle the social cost," Cabalda told the INQUIRER in an interview yesterday.

He said the MGB has prepared a rehabilitation proposal for the identified areas, regardless of the cost of the project.

"If it's just the government, we will over-design. We will ensure that we have the best that technology can offer. We did not consider the cost that Marcopper would incur; the bottom line is to make it safe," he said.

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OPPOSITION stalwarts up on the Plaza Miranda stage include from left, Rep. Chiz Escudero, Rez Cortez, former Senators Ernie Maceda and Tito Sotto, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna and "jueteng" whistle-blower Sandra Cam.



NO VARIATION on the same theme: Gloria, step down, return Erap.

REM ZAMORA

Colonel eyes move from arms to farm

From page A1

Balutan is now under the equivalent of a house arrest, having been relieved of his post as PMA assistant commandant of cadets immediately after testifying at the Senate hearing.

His lawyer has instructed him not to agree to face-to-face interviews with the media, particularly television, and especially not on the details of his case.

The preliminary trial investigation prior to the court-martial has yet to start.

"But I think it will push through," Balutan said in Filipino.

2-bedroom unit

Balutan lives with his wife, Angie, and their two sons and

four daughters in a two-bedroom unit at the Diego Silang Village along C-5 in Taguig City.

He said he bought the 60-square-meter unit for P480,000 in 1997, and paid for it on installment using the proceeds of the rice harvest in Zaragosa.

He inherited the three-hectare farm from his parents, Alejandro and Florentina.

As lieutenant colonel, Balutan receives a base pay of P17,000 a month.

The eldest of his brood, who is 19, is taking a computer engineering course at a university in Mandaluyong. The rest are enrolled in public schools in Makati—three in high school, and two, including the youngest, who is 7, in grade school.

"I cannot afford to send my children to exclusive schools," he said, adding that their mother had to stay home to look after them "because I am always away."

The family's modest lifestyle provides a stark contrast to the "unexplained wealth" of the members of the Armed Forces' so-called "comptroller family," like retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, Lt. Jacinto Ligot and Lt. Col. George Rabusa, who own houses here and abroad aside from a fleet of cars and a number of bank accounts.

Balutan's testimony at the Senate has moved Good Samaritans to offer scholarships for his children, which he has politely declined.

"I can still afford to give my kids their P20 daily allowance,"

he said.

He also said he was worried that accepting the offers of assistance "might add color to my testimony."

Free education

One of the five sons of a master sergeant and an elementary school teacher, Balutan said he took the PMA entrance examinations "to get a free education."

His younger brother followed in his footsteps at the PMA, while another brother joined the police force in Nueva Ecija.

If Balutan has his way, none of his six children will join the military, let alone the Marines.

("Mahirap ang buhay ng Marine (Life as a Marine is difficult)," he said.

Balutan survived four ambushes during his 15-year service

in Mindanao.

He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Star for the series of strikes to retake Camp Abubakar, the main rebel enclave in Mindanao, in 1999.

At that time, Balutan said, he was with the 1st Marine Battalion.

Insubordination

Along with Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, PMA assistant superintendent, Balutan appeared at the Sept. 28 hearing of the Senate committee on national defense to testify on the alleged cheating in the Lanao provinces during the May 2004 polls.

At the time of the elections, Gudani was commander of the 1st Marine Brigade and chief of Task Force Lanao, which had jurisdiction over Lanao del Sur and

Lanao del Norte, and Balutan was chief of the 7th Marine Battalion assigned with Gudani's brigade.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga, who had ordered Gudani and Balutan not to testify, believed them of their posts on grounds of willful insubordination of legal orders.

He said the two officers would face a military court for violating the Articles of War.

Senga himself was one of the military officers invited to the hearing who did not show up.

It was in the afternoon of Sept. 28 that President Macapagal-Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464 was issued. The EO forbids key members of the executive branch and police and military officials from testifying at congressional inquiries without her permission.

Deep in debt, Filipina kills 3 kids, self in Japan

From page A1

nine-month-old daughter when he came home from work Thursday, police said without identifying any one of them. The couple and the children lived in Misato, Saitama prefecture next to Tokyo.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo was already aware of the incident but was still awaiting an official report from the police.

A report posted on the Japan-

Today website identified the woman's Filipino husband as Carnate Danilo Policarpio, 43. The woman was identified only as Amalia, the two boys as Toshiki and Kazuki, and the baby, Danica.

"A note was found left in the room, which said: 'I will bring my children with me so that they won't have to cry,'" a local police official said.

It said police suspected from speaking with the woman's husband that she carried out the murder-suicide after worrying

about ways to pay off a heavy debt.

It reported police as saying the bodies bore knife wounds in the neck or chest, and that in addition to the note, a kitchen knife and a letter opener were found nearby.

Toshiki and Kazuki were Amalia's children by her former Japanese husband, according to JapanToday.

OFW dead in Kuwait

In Cotabato City, Mando Ambel Tatak said he was asking the

Departments of Labor and Foreign Affairs for help in investigating the death of his daughter, Noraisa Dalgan Tatak, 21, a domestic helper in Kuwait who died one day after being taken to a hospital for unexplained reasons.

Tatak said he could not believe at first it was his daughter's body that was described in an incomplete post mortem report initially sent to the employer who then mailed it to the OFW's last known address in Manila, which happened to be that of a relative. The

Tataks are from Sultan sa Barongis.

The report identified the fatality only as Miriam and placed the date of her death as Sept. 22, 2005.

Tatak said his daughter had assumed the name of Rosa Demante when she obtained work in the household of one Abdul Aziz Jafar in Hawaly, Kuwait in November 2000.

Esmail Maulana, who helped the family verify Noraisa's case, said government offices did not have any record on the OFW

but they learned she has already been buried under Muslim rites.

Three other Filipina OFWs have run away from their employer in Abu Dhabi, and one of them, Emma Bingil, a former disc jockey at a local station, was expected back in Cotabato City on Saturday, a labor official said. He did not disclose the reasons for the three women's escape or where the other two were now. *AFP With reports from Volt Contreras and Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

UN nuclear agency, head win Nobel Peace Prize

From page A1

for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way."

ElBaradei and the agency had been among the favorites to win the prize in the days leading up to the announcement, as speculation mounted that the Nobel committee would seek to honor the victims of nuclear weapons and those who try to contain their use. (See *ElBaradei profile on Page A10*.)

"This is a message to all the people of the world: Do what you can to get rid of nuclear weapons," said Mjoes. "The people's power is formidable."

The committee has repeatedly awarded its prize to anti-nuclear weapons campaigners on the major anniversaries of the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

On the 50th anniversary, in 1995, the prize went to anti-nuclear campaigner Joseph Rotblat and his Pugwash group. In

1985, it went to International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and in 1975 to Soviet nuclear scientist-turned-anti-nuclear campaigner Andrei Sakharov.

'We'll never give up'

"We will never give up and we must never give in," said Mjoes about the committee's ongoing demand that nuclear weapons be banned.

A record 199 nominations were received for the prize, which includes 10 million kronor (1 million euros; US\$1.3 million), a gold medal and a diploma. ElBaradei and the IAEA will share the award when they receive it on Dec. 10 in the Norwegian capital.

In Vienna, where the agency is based, IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said: "This is the most proud moment of my career at the IAEA. I never thought we'd see this day. This is the proudest day for the IAEA. We are proud, astonished, elated. For an organi-

zation like us there is no prouder award."

The Nobel committee said ElBaradei and the agency should be recognized for addressing one of the greatest dangers facing the world.

"At a time when the threat of nuclear arms is again increasing, the Norwegian Nobel Committee wishes to underline that this threat must be met through the broadest possible international cooperation. This principle finds its clearest expression today in the work of the IAEA and its director general," the committee said.

It added, "At a time when disarmament efforts appear deadlocked, when there is a danger that nuclear arms will spread both to states and to terrorist groups, and when nuclear power again appears to be playing an increasingly significant role, IAEA's work is of incalculable importance."

Former chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix told The Associ-

ated Press in Stockholm that as a friend and colleague of ElBaradei, he was "very happy on his behalf."

He said the IAEA is best equipped to deal with nuclear situations such as those in Iran and North Korea.

No success

"It is trying to look at this calmly and find diplomatic solutions," he said. "But it must be based on factual and professional observation and verification, and that's what the IAEA has been able to do. So I congratulate them."

Stein Toennesson, director of the Peace Research Institute-Oslo, said he was surprised by the prize's timing because the IAEA is still trying to solve the Iran crisis without sending it to the UN Security Council.

"The prize was given to someone who did not have success during the year," he said. "We have to see the prize as, implicitly, an expression of hope that the

Iran question can be solved within the IAEA."

Toennesson said it was a bold move for the committee to award the prize to the agency at a time when its members strongly disagree on how to handle Iran.

"The committee stuck its finger in a wasps' nest," he said.

ElBaradei has led the IAEA as it rose in prominence from a nondescript bureaucracy monitoring nuclear sites worldwide to a pivotal institution at the vortex of efforts to disarm the two regimes.

Strident line

The austere and methodical diplomat took a strident line as he guided the IAEA through the most serious troubles it had faced since the end of the Cold War.

He accused North Korea, for example, of "nuclear brinkmanship" in December 2002 after it expelled two inspectors monitoring a mothballed nuclear

complex. Pyongyang said the plant needed to go back on line because of an electricity shortage.

Norway's outgoing Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik said it was "gratifying" that IAEA and ElBaradei won the peace prize.

"This is a homage to their crucial efforts to stop nuclear proliferation, in order to prevent the use of such weapons in conflicts between states or in terrorist attacks," he said. "Mohamed ElBaradei is an outstanding leader with great integrity. He has always sought to achieve results by negotiations. We saw this clearly during the period before the Iraq war, when he all the way to the end requested that the international weapons inspectors continue their work."

Ultimately, a US-led coalition invaded Iraq and no weapons of mass destruction were found. An international force remains in the country. *AP*

If they ain't real, don't take them with you to US

From page A1

Entering the US carrying pirated items—from fake audio-video discs, signature fashion products, cosmetics and even books—could land you in jail, the Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C. warned yesterday.

Citing a travel advisory from the US Commercial Service, the embassy said anyone caught with even a single pirated item faces "automatic deportation in violation of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) or anti-piracy law would be penalized."

prosecution, in addition to civil fines and penalties."

The embassy reported that US Customs officials "are also looking into fake designer bags like Louis Vuitton, Coach, Gucci, Prada, etc. as well as cosmetics."

In Manila, the United States Embassy said pirated items would be confiscated at US ports of entry and violators of the US government's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) or anti-piracy law would be penalized.

"Pirated materials are not allowed

to be brought into the US—from clothing, books, CDs, and DVDs," embassy press attaché Matthew Lussenhop told the INQUIRER in a phone interview last week.

The American Association of Publishers (AAP) had alerted US Customs to include "pirated books" on its hot list.

Pirated books

The Philippine Embassy directed the AAP's concerns particularly to the growing number of Filipino nursing graduates applying

for jobs in the States and who may be planning to bring along pirated reviewer books for their US eligibility exams.

In the past few weeks, an e-mail had been circulating in the Filipino community that "pirated books," allegedly those brought in by nursing graduates planning to take the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) and Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) exam in the United States, would be confiscated.

Travelers from the Philippines should also be careful that the "pasalubong and padala (gifts)" they would be bringing in to the United States should not include fake or pirated CDs and DVDs, the e-mail added.

The Philippine Embassy cited an undated case documented by the US Department of Homeland Security wherein a Filipino was held at the airport in Detroit upon disembarking from Northwest Airlines Flight 72. The reason? His bag yielded some 80 CDs, 20

DVDs and 40 empty DVD jackets.

Visas canceled

Non-US citizens caught violating the ban will have their visas canceled and face immediate deportation while American nationals will be arrested and prosecuted, the embassy said.

The embassy also reminded Filipino travelers that, based on the US advisory, they should bring another identification card aside from their passport to help facilitate their entry.

Gov't probes possible bird flu in Bulacan town

GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES were investigating possible bird flu in the sudden deaths of 50 chickens in a village in Bulacan province, an official said yesterday.

Blood samples have already been taken from at least two of the birds in a village outside Calumpit, about 40 kilometers northwest of Manila—the same town where a low-risk version of bird flu was discovered in a duck farm in July.

"At the moment we do not have a confirmatory diagnosis," said Divino Catbagan, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

"It could be a New Castle disease situation, but we will confirm that with the blood ...

by tomorrow (Saturday)."

That disease is caused by a highly infectious virus that can wipe out a poultry farm.

The Philippines has been free of the deadly bird flu strain that has ravaged other Southeast Asian poultry industries and killed more than 60 people.

But health experts fear migratory birds will carry the virus to the country.

A United Nations health official has warned of a flu pandemic that could kill between 5-150 million people.

However, the World Health Organization is more conservative in its estimate, placing the possible number of people who could die at between 2 million and 7.4 million. **AP**

PRISON POPULATION EXPLOSION

Prisoners' food bill hits P1B

By Philip C. Tubeza

AN EXPLOSION IN THE POPULATION of the country's jails has forced an already cash-strapped government to cough up almost P1 billion every year since 2002 to feed prison inmates.

"There's an alarming population explosion in our jailhouses," said Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., the chair of the committee on appropriations of the House of Representatives.

Andaya said there has been a 50 percent increase in the prison population over the past three years.

"From 41,594 inmates in August 2002, the number of prisoners jumped to 59,225 in March

this year and is projected to hit 68,130 next year," he said in a statement.

And the prison system was facing "more admissions as widespread poverty is driving more people to commit criminal acts," Andaya said.

The congressman called for the decongestion of the 490 jails run by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), noting that the estimated P1 billion food budget meant that each inmate was allotted only P40 a day for meals.

"How to provide three square meals to a prisoner out of P40 is probably the most exacting challenge since the day Jesus fed a multitude out of a loaf of bread

and a jug of water," he said.

Andaya said the speedy judicial resolution of criminal cases would help decongest the country's jails.

The logjam of cases in the lower courts, where 778,556 cases were pending by end-2003, was "one reason why our standing-room-only jails are literally packed to the rafters," Andaya said.

According to Andaya, Malacañang was projecting a continued increase in the prison population and has asked Congress to increase the prisoners' food budget by P353 million, to reach P995 million next year.

The food budget eats up a third of the BJMP's proposed P2.9 billion budget for 2006.

Also included in the total BJMP budget was a P220 million allocation for the pay increases of 6,400 jail guards and for the hiring of 500 new guards, he said.

With the government's fiscal problems, there is little or no money to build more jails to cope with the rise in jail population, Andaya said.

The congressman said the jails operated by the BJMP are separate from the prisons managed by the Bureau of Corrections and the 750 jails being maintained by the Philippine National Police.

He said the BJMP has an aggregate jail space of 92,292 square meters nationwide, "or a density of about seven prisoners per 10 square meters of jail space."

Tax evasion charges filed vs mall owners

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE yesterday filed before the justice department tax evasion charges against the sister company of Ever Gotesco for alleged failure to pay more than P600 million in taxes in 1998 and 1999.

Accused of violating the tax code was GMCC United Development Corp., which is engaged in the real estate business. Named respondents were its president, Jose Go and treasurer Xu Xian Chun.

The BIR computed the company's tax deficiency at P602,838,313.57 for 1998 and 1999.

The BIR discovered that GMCC had undeclared assets that resulted to a deficiency in its income and value added taxes after looking into several transactions that GMCC had entered into.

Through third party information, the BIR found that GMCC had executed a real estate mortgage in favor of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. using the company's real properties as collateral.

The mortgage was made in order to secure the payment of GMCC's obligations and that of its sister companies and affiliates, namely: Ever Emporium Inc., Gotesco Properties Inc. and Ever Price Club Inc.

But when GMCC and the companies failed to pay its obligations, it entered into an agreement with RCBC for the transfer of its properties as partial payment.

It was through these transactions that the BIR learned that GMCC did not declare the income from the real properties used as collateral. The income would have been subject to income and value added tax.

The BIR also said that in offering the real properties as payment for its sister companies' debts, it did not pay the corresponding donor's tax.

GMCC also failed to declare the sale of one of its condominium units that resulted in undeclared sales for 1999, according to the BIR.

According to the complaint, the condominium unit was sold for P5 million while a parking lot was sold for P350,000.

But in its audited financial statements, GMCC only declared rental income but not the income from the condo sale, making GMCC responsible for an undeclared income of P5,350,000 in 1999.

Ermita scored for insulting 'man's best friend'

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHY PICK ON MAN'S BEST FRIEND?

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano yesterday scored Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita for likening policemen to dogs, saying this was "an insult to man's best friend."

"Gen. Ermita's persistent justification of the unjustifiable is the height of political arrogance against people exercising their legitimate civil and political rights," said Mariano, referring to the violent police dispersal of protest actions against the administration.

"In fact, this fascist General's idiotic parallelism is an insult to man's best friend," he added.

Ermita said protesters were to blame for the violent dispersal since policemen "were like dogs (that) won't bite as long as you don't kick them."

He explained the reason (for the violent dispersal): "There's action, so there's a reaction."

Mariano, however, said it was President Macapagal-Arroyo's tough calibrated pre-emptive response (CPR) on protests which were "kicking and abusing" the rights of protesters, "who are merely reacting to the kicks and abuses."

He added: "If anything, Ermita's statement only proves that the Arroyo government has gone to the dogs and is going the way of dogs in suppressing the truth and repressing our civil and political liberties."

Mariano said the CPR policy would not demoralize protesters and instead, strengthen their resolve to fight for their basic right to air their grievances.

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US offers \$11M for 2 Indon bombers in RP

From page A1

bassy, mission, or consulate or the Rewards for Justice staff via e-mail," the US Embassy said.

At its Philippine equivalent of P560 million, the bounty is more than three times the single biggest pot for the local lotto.

Reward system

The US Embassy noted that the Rewards for Justice Program had paid since its inception in 1984 more than \$62 million to more than 40 individuals who have provided Washington with credible information that has led to the capture or death of terrorists or prevented acts of terrorism.

This includes the nearly \$1 million it paid to three Basilan residents for helping the Armed Forces of the Philippines to track down Hamsiraji Sali or Jose Ramirez, the Abu Sayyaf Group leader that kid-

napped and murdered US and Philippine citizens. Sali was killed in the ensuing firefight.

Washington had earlier placed a bounty of up to \$5 million on Abu Sayyaf's Khadaffi Janjalani.

In Zamboanga City, a spokesperson for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said Dulmatin and Patek were with Khadaffi Janjalani, the senior leader of the Abu Sayyaf.

The three had been together in central Mindanao but managed to escape when the Armed Forces launched an operation to try to catch them in July, MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu told the news agency AFP.

On the run

But in an interview with the INQUIRER earlier, Kabalu said that reports that the masterminds of last week's Bali bombing had trained in Mindanao were a concoction by



APPEAL FROM BALI: A Muslim woman walks past by a banner at the start of an interfaith prayer near the site where one of Oct. 1 bombs exploded during an interfaith prayer in Kuta, Bali, Indonesia, Tuesday. At least 202 people were killed in an earlier bombing in 2002.

people supporting the antiterrorism bill being discussed in Congress.

"The Indonesian police and other law enforcers could easily say that, even the United States or any other country. But the way we see it, it's only a support to the antiterrorism bill. And it's a propaganda that affects our country's economic stability," Kabalu said.

"Based on our operations, Dulmatin and Patek are in Mindanao but we do not know what place because they fled from the latest operations," said Kabalu.

Since the MILF signed a ceasefire in 2001, it has been helping the government track Abu Sayyaf militants.

The Abu Sayyaf, like the JI, is on the US State Department's blacklist of "foreign terrorist organizations" which has kid-

napped westerners and launched bombings of civilian targets in the Philippines.

Kabalu said that the MILF had earlier given the government a list of 50 foreign and local Muslim "terrorists" who it said were hiding in Mindanao, including Dulmatin, Patek and their Abu Sayyaf allies.

Dulmatin, also known as Joko Pitono and Ahmad Noval, was born in 1970 and is said to be an expert in the wiring of bombs, according to a report by the International Crisis Group think tank.

He trained in Afghanistan,

then went to Malaysia and returned in 1995 to Indonesia, where he regularly visited an Islamic school founded by Abu Bakar Bashir, JI's alleged spiritual leader currently in prison over charges linked to the 2002 Bali attack.

Destination of choice

Sidney Jones, a noted JI expert quoted recently in the Australian newspaper, also said that Dulmatin and Patek were hiding out in the southern Philippines.

"Mindanao remains the desti-

nation of choice for Indonesia jihadists fleeing police pursuit. The good news is it has become harder and harder to get there because of increased border surveillance," she said.

The new US bounty offer comes just days after Bali was hit by the second attack in three years when three suspected suicide bombers blew up restaurants last Saturday, killing 19 people and wounding more than 120. *With reports from AFP, Jeffrey Maitem and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US warns bird flu can become 'catastrophic'

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES WARNED Thursday that a worldwide pandemic of bird flu among humans would be "catastrophic" and opened an 80-nation conference on the feared disease by pleading with governments not to cover up any outbreaks.

Fears are mounting that bird flu, which has so far killed about 60 people and tens of millions of poultry in Asia, could mutate into a deadly virus that can spread directly among humans.

State Department officials said the conference in Washington, also including eight international organizations, would focus on preventing an outbreak from spreading across the globe, and stress the need for honest and fast reporting by affected nations.

"If avian flu does mutate to allow easier human to human transmission, the results would be catastrophic locally, regionally and globally," Paula Dobriansky, undersecretary of state for democracy and global affairs, told officials at the meeting which ends Friday.

"Working through a global partnership offers we think the best chance, perhaps our only chance of confronting this threat effectively on all fronts."

The World Health Organization fears a mutation of the avian flu virus could spark a worldwide epidemic among humans, similar to the Spanish flu outbreak, which claimed millions of lives after the First World War in 1918.

The US coordinating conference opened as United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan appealed to nations to join forces to beat avian flu.

"Preparedness is the key," he said at the WHO in Geneva. "We are in this together."

US officials are now so concerned

about the threat of a pandemic, that they have made bird flu the number one priority at the US Agency for International Development (USAID), even above reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"In terms of timeliness of an issue, there is no issue more important now than doing everything in our capacity to have some kind of impact on the frontlines, particularly globally, to try and help contain this deadly virus," said Kent Hill, USAID's assistant administrator for global affairs.

US officials said they hoped that coun-

tries, particularly in Asia where bird flu is prevalent, would heed the way that severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) spread around the world in 2003.

"We're very hopeful that every single government in Asia learned a great lesson out of the SARS epidemic," said a senior Health and Human Services Department official on condition of anonymity.

China was accused of covering up SARS, making it more difficult to combat a disease which spread around the world, killing some 800 people and infecting more than 8,000.

President George W. Bush, smarting from criticism of his role in the Hurricane Katrina debacle, has stepped up efforts to show he is on top of the looming crisis.

On Tuesday, he raised the possibility of using the military to quarantine affected areas in the United States in the event of an avian flu outbreak. **AFP**

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Bush claimed God told him to invade Iraq, BBC says

LONDON—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush allegedly said God told him to invade Iraq and Afghanistan, a new BBC documentary will reveal, according to details released on Thursday.

Bush made the claim when he met Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas and then Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath in June 2003, the ministers told the documentary series to be broadcast in Britain later this month.

The US leader also told them he had been ordered by God to create a Palestinian state, the ministers said.

Shaath, now the Palestinian information minister, said: "President Bush said to all of us: 'I'm driven with a mission from God.'

'God would tell me, 'George, go and fight those terrorists in Afghanistan.' 'And I did, and then God would tell me, 'George, go and end the tyranny in Iraq...' And I did.

"And now, again, I feel God's words coming to me, 'Go get the Palestinians their state and get the Israelis their security, and get peace in the Middle East.' And by God I'm gonna do it," said Shaath.

Abbas, who was also at the meeting in the Egyptian resort of Sharm al-Sheikh, recalled how the president told him: "I have a moral and religious obligation.

"So I will get you a Palestinian state." A BBC spokesperson said the content of the program had been put to the White House but it had refused to comment on a private conversation. AFP

Al-Qaida divided over tactics in Iraq, US says

WASHINGTON—THE PENTAGON said on Thursday the United States had obtained a letter written by al-Qaida's second in command, Ayman al-Zawahri, to the network's leader in Iraq saying tactics being used such as bombing mosques and killing hostages might alienate the Muslim masses.

Pentagon spokesperson Bryan Whitman described the letter as written by Zawahri, the No. 2 in al-Qaida behind Osama bin Laden, to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian who heads al-Qaida's branch in Iraq that is engaged in a guerrilla war with US troops and Iraqi forces.

Whitman said the United States considered the letter authentic, but refused to say how, when or where it was obtained or by whom in order to protect "sources and methods" used. Whitman described the letter as "recent," but was not more precise.

"Zawahri does say that the insurgents in Iraq should avoid using tactics such as bombing of mosques and slaughtering of hostages in order not to alienate the masses. In this letter, he talks about believing that the eventual governance of Iraq must include the Muslim masses, and that they are at risk of alienating those," Whitman told reporters.

Whitman declined to release the letter, which was in Arabic.

Whitman also said Zawahri makes a plea to Zarqawi for financial support.

Whitman declined to say whether Zarqawi responded in any way to the letter.

"Zawahri says that they've lost many of their key leaders and that they've virtually resigned themselves to defeat in Afghanistan, that their lines of communication and funding have been severely disrupted," Whitman said.

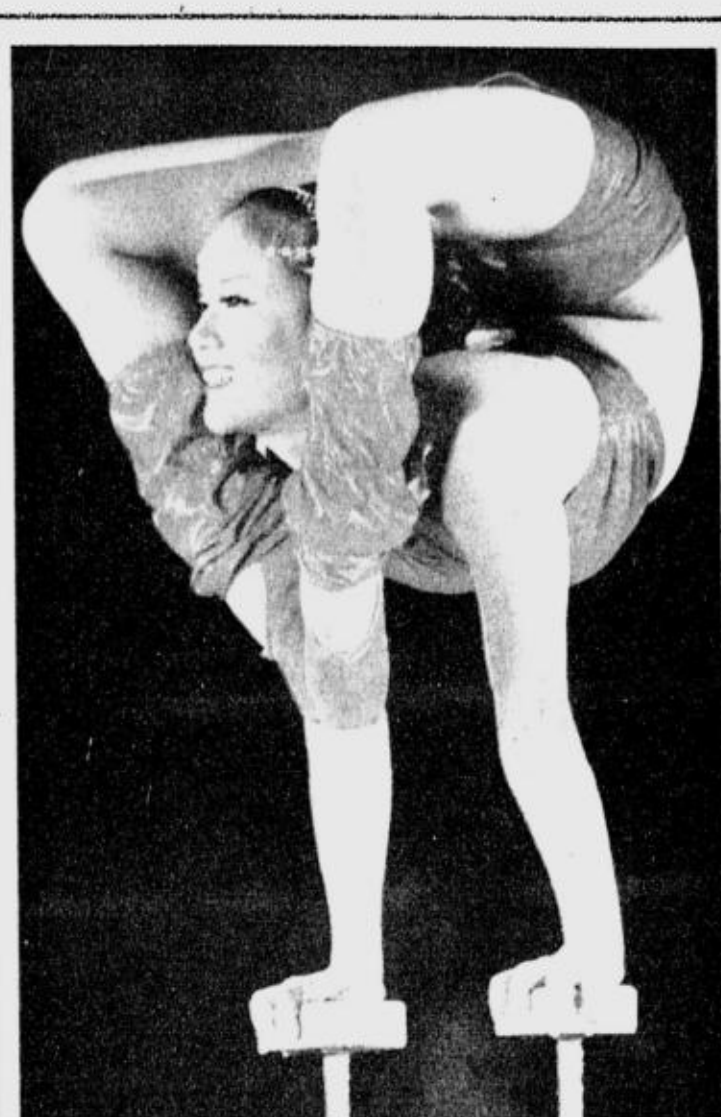
Whitman said the letter emphasizes that Muslim extremists intend to create a broad Islamic state centered on Iraq and expanding into neighboring Muslim countries, although he declined to state which countries were mentioned.

Zarqawi's group has claimed responsibility for a series of killings, hostage beheadings and most major suicide bombings in Iraq, including the bombings of the UN Baghdad headquarters and the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf in 2003 and a suicide car bomb that killed the head of Iraq's former Governing Council in 2004.

Bin Laden appointed Zarqawi as his deputy in Iraq after the Jordanian pledged allegiance to the overall al-Qaida leader in October 2004.

Intelligence officials believe Zarqawi communicates with Bin Laden and Zawahri through couriers who can take weeks to make the journey between eastern Afghanistan to western Iraq.

Officials say Bin Laden and Zawahri have set general parameters within which they expect Zarqawi to run his insurgent struggle against US forces in Iraq. But they say the two sides have clashed over Zarqawi attacks on Shiite Muslims.



RUBBER GIRL

Contortionist Ganchimeg Yunchimeg smiles at the audience during her performance with Circus Vargas, Oct. 6, 2005, in Bakersfield, Calif. The circus performed twice during its single day in town.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

ElBaradei: Shy, dogged crusader

VIENNA, AUSTRIA—MOHAMED ELBaradei, the winner of the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize, has grown over the years into a dogged campaigner for nuclear nonproliferation.

Austere and methodical, the Egyptian diplomat has taken a sometimes strident line while guiding the Vienna-based agency through the most serious troubles it has faced since the end of the Cold War.

He also has had to contend with US opposition to his tenure, although that ended formally last month when IAEA member nations formally approved his reappointment for a third term.

Much of the opposition stemmed from Washington's perception that he was being too soft on Iran for not declaring it in violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. That stance blocked a US bid to haul Tehran before the UN Security Council for more than two years.

He also refused to endorse Washington's contention that Iran was working to make nuclear weapons and disputed US assertions that Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq had an active atomic weapons program—both claims that remain unproven, despite growing suspicions about Tehran's nuclear agenda.

Most recently, it is his focus on Iran—and IAEA efforts to establish whether that country has a secret nuclear weapons program—that has kept him in the international nonproliferation limelight.

Iran, concerns about a nuclear black market and efforts to end North Korea's nuclear arms program, pose "an unprecedented array of challenges to the nonproliferation and arms control regime," he said last month, as he outlined agency priorities.

He has been at the helm of the agency during its transition from a nondescript bureaucracy monitoring nuclear sites worldwide into a pivotal force at the forefront of disarmament efforts.

ElBaradei accused North Korea of "nuclear brinkmanship" in December 2002 after it expelled two inspectors who were monitoring a mothballed nuclear complex.

"I'm calling a spade a spade," he told The Associated Press at the time. "I see a very serious crisis—a country that's completely defying the world."

He also directed the agency as it launched inspections in Iraq alongside the hunt for biological and chemical agents conducted by the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission. AP

Dog testicles, penguin poop study win Ig Nobels

By Maggie Fox

WASHINGTON—THE INVENTOR of artificial testicles for dogs, Nigerian Internet scammers and a team that calculated the pressures created when penguins poop won Ig Nobel prizes for 2005 on Thursday.

The spoof prizes, awarded by the science humor magazine Annals of Improbable Research, are presented at a ceremony in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where the winners must try to explain their work in a minute or less.

While some awards clearly poke fun at current culture, others are meant to provoke debate about science, Annals editor Marc Abrahams said.

"Now in their fifteenth year, the Igs honor achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think," Abrahams said in a statement.

This year's winners include: "Medicine"—Gregg Miller of Oak Grove, Missouri, for inventing

Neuticles—artificial replacement testicles for dogs.

"Literature"—The Internet entrepreneurs of Nigeria, "for creating and then using e-mail to distribute a bold series of short stories, thus introducing millions of readers to a cast of rich characters—General Sani Abacha, Mrs. Mariam Sanni Abacha, Barrister: Jon A Mbeki Esq." The scammers are notorious for asking people to reveal their private bank information to help fictitious characters transfer large sums of money.

"Fluid Dynamics"—Victor Benno Meyer-Rochow of International University Bremen, Germany, and the University of Oulu, Finland; and Jozsef Gal of Lorond Eotvos University in Hungary, for "Pressures Produced When Penguins Pooh—Calculations on Avian Defecation," an actual study published in 2003 in the journal Polar Biology.

"Economics"—Gauri Nanda, for inventing an alarm clock that runs away and hides. Reuters

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Question of the Week

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Threat on NY subway deemed credible

NEW YORK—NEW YORK RAMPED UP security on its subway system Thursday after receiving what officials described as the most specific threat to date of a terrorist attack in the coming days.

"This is the first time that we have had a threat with this level of specificity," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. "It was more specific as to target, it was more specific as to timing."

Although the intelligence behind the alert had yet to be corroborated, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said it had been deemed of "sufficient concern" to enhance counterterrorism operations on the subway network, as well as buses and ferries.

Officials refused to provide details of the precise nature of the threat, although Kelly said an existing policy of random searches on the subway would be intensified, with a particular emphasis on baggage and baby strollers.

Despite the increased security, subways were running as normal and New

York City remained at terrorist level orange, the second highest level, which has been in force here ever since the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center.

The head of the FBI's New York field office, Mark Mershon, said the new threat had been "partially disrupted" but declined to elaborate beyond confirming that no arrests had been made in the city itself.

CNN quoted a senior Pentagon official as saying US troops, acting on the same intelligence, had taken part in a raid south of Baghdad on Wednesday night and rounded up several al-Qaida operatives.

Bloomberg said the warning of the attack had come several days ago, but a public announcement was delayed.

"There were operations taking place that we thought were in the interest of ending the threat, and to release the information earlier could have jeopardized the lives of those conducting

those operations," he said.

In the immediate wake of the July suicide bombings on the London transport system that claimed 52 lives, New York flooded its subway network with police patrols and introduced a policy of random bag searches.

The New York subway—fourth largest in the world in passenger volume—carries 4.5 million passengers on an average working day.

"We've never had before a specific threat to our subway system," Bloomberg said.

"There have been people all the time on the Internet and every place else, saying you know ... I'm going to go get those guys," he said. "But suffice it to say (this time) its importance was enhanced above the normal level, by the detail that was available to us."

In a city that still bears the physical and psychological scars of the Sept. 11 attack four years ago, the presence of police, antiterrorist units and National

Guard troops has become a common feature of subway travel.

Bloomberg's press briefing came in the middle of the evening rush hour and many subway passengers said they were unaware of the new threat.

Others said they had heard the news but felt few qualms about going home as usual.

"This isn't the first time and it won't be the last," said Marion Cox, 32, as she prepared to board a downtown train at Manhattan's Grand Central Station.

"I have to get home, that's the bottom line. And tomorrow I have to come to work," she said.

Bloomberg, who said he would continue to take the subway to and from work every day, pledged that every effort would be made to ensure passenger security.

"We have done and will continue to do everything we can to protect this city. We will spare no resource. We will spare no expense," the mayor said. *AFP*

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Sanction or prevention?

THE FUNDAMENTAL DEFECT OF THE ANTI-TERRORISM bill being endorsed by the Arroyo administration was demonstrated, not by opposition critics, but by administration congressmen as they bickered among themselves in what was supposed to be a show of unity last Wednesday. President Macapagal-Arroyo had gathered congressmen from the foreign affairs and justice committees of the House of Representatives to appear with her on television to promote the bill. What came through was that the congressmen and the President were divided as to what the real purpose of the bill should be. Should it seek to prevent terrorism or to punish it after it has occurred?

EDITORIAL The lawmakers who were more concerned with preventing acts of terrorism seemed inclined to safeguard civil liberties, while those who saw the bill as a means of exacting severe retribution for terrorist acts seemed obsessed with extending the maximum period of detention without providing legal safeguards for suspects.

Terrorism, both as a phenomenon and an act, has been so broadly defined that the President seems incapable of even achieving—much less demanding—a consensus on what an anti-terrorism bill should really be about. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita seems to have a clear picture of what the bill should do. He said that the Rizal Day bombings in 2000 that killed 17 people would not have occurred had the perpetrators, who had been apprehended in 1998, been prevented from leaving their prison cells.

Congressmen, who insist on defending civil liberties, believe that the maximum period a Filipino should be detained without charges is 3 days. The Philippine National Police wants 15 days. The President herself noted that in Malaysia, the period is 28 days, which could be taken as her personal benchmark. But it should be noted that whether the period of detention was 3 or 28 days, the 2000 bombings would still have happened, considering that almost two years separated the arrest of the suspects and the bombings. Thus the worrisome thought arises—and it is one that hasn't escaped the political opposition—that the administration might want a law patterned after the American model, which allows indefinite periods of detention merely on suspicion of terrorist conspiracy.

Ermita also believes the government needs a bill that addresses the government's need to block terrorists' sources of money, impede their mobility and limit their training capability. This ties in with the moderates' view that prevention, and not punishment, is the more reasonable and meritorious purpose of such a bill. They point to the successes our intelligence operatives have had, using existing laws and limits on the application of those laws, in preventing terrorists from achieving their aims. After all, without a terrorism bill, the planners of the first World Trade Center bombing in New York were apprehended, and a plot to kill Pope John Paul II was foiled.

What needs to be asked is whether the President has a vision and whether the members of Congress, both in the House and the Senate, share and understand that vision. Trust—or the lack of it—of the President and her motives is an important factor. The anti-terrorism law envisioned by the President and her people seems to be aimed at securing such sweeping powers for the government that it threatens to dangerously expand provisions of the Penal Code, an antiquated colonial law that has draconian, if often unused, provisions to begin with. In other words, as one law school dean put it, the proposed law would alter the entire Philippine criminal justice system.

In what way? To the great advantage of the government and to the great disadvantage of ordinary citizens, particularly those who incur the ire of those who happen to be in power.

The plenary debates on the anti-terrorism bill in the House must be thorough, and uninhibited. The Senate should then put under rigorous examination every provision of this bill. The public will be ill-served by a law-making process in which the majority will railroad the passage of a law that does little to reduce the country's vulnerability to terrorist attacks while expanding the government's power in such a way that no one may ask questions should such a tragedy happen.



Separation of powers

THE DOCTRINE OF SEPARATION OF POWERS, a major principle in the presidential system, is misunderstood by many laymen, who tend to interpret it literally as importing the exclusive authority of the three major branches of the government in the discharge of their respective powers.

This is a mistake insofar as it suggests hostility among the said departments which must deal with each other at arms' length in jealous protection of their assigned functions. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "The letter of the Constitution wisely declared a separation, but the impulse of common purpose declares a union." Our own Justice Jose P. Laurel, whose expertise in Constitutional Law in this country has yet to be surpassed, declared that the keynote of the conduct among the three departments should be not independence but interdependence.

One of the purposes of the doctrine is to promote efficiency, which can be attained if each of the departments can perform its functions without interference from the other departments. Thus, it is Congress that enacts laws, it is the President who enforces them, and it is the Supreme Court and the other courts that interpret them. Negatively stated, the Legislature cannot execute or interpret the laws, the Executive cannot enact or interpret them, and the Judiciary cannot enact or execute them.

However, this separation cannot be enforced with "pedantic rigor" or given "doctrinaire application," according to Justice Frankfurter. The reason is that some powers defy exclusive classification because, as Justice Holmes observed, "The great ordinances of the Constitution do not establish and divide fields of black and white. Even the more specific of them are found to terminate in penumbra shading gradually from one extreme to another."

To take just one example, the power of in-

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



vestigation can be validly exercised by the President against a suspected criminal, by Congress in the consideration of a proposed bill, and by the Supreme Court to resolve the validity of a challenged contract. There is a gray area in the Constitution that permits the valid exercise of the same function by all the three principal branches of the government as part of their major powers.

Assuming no such penumbra, the doctrine of separation of powers is still subject to the corollary principle of checks and balances. This enables any of the three departments to protect its independence by preventing encroachments on its jurisdiction and to ensure proper respect for the rule of law by correcting mistakes or abuses committed by the other departments in excess of their lawful authority.

To illustrate, the Senate may refuse concurrence to a treaty it believes to be inimical to the country's interest; thus repudiated, the President may re-name the document as an executive agreement and implement it without such concurrence. Congress may limit the jurisdiction of the courts, and the President may influence and intimidate them with his power of appointment and promotion. The Judiciary may be regarded as the weakest of the three departments, but it may revoke as unconstitutional the even unanimous act of Congress and the President as in, say, the proclamation of martial law.

While it is true that the Constitution should be interpreted according to the clear intention

of the framers, this admonition has been scornfully rejected by Executive Order No. 464, where President Arroyo has unlawfully limited the power of legislative investigation over executive officials, who are now banned from appearing before Congress without her permission. The order is based on that part of Art. VI, Sec. 22, providing that department heads may appear before either House of Congress "upon their own initiative, with the consent of the President" as if that were the sum and substance of the rule.

The rule may be valid as long as it applies only to "the heads of department" but certainly not to other subordinate officials, like members of the Armed Forces and other inferior agencies. Worse, it also intentionally omits the other part of the section providing that the appearance of department heads may also be made "upon the request of either House of Congress," which does not require presidential permission.

The pertinent part of Sec. 22 provides that "the heads of departments may upon their own initiative, with the consent of the President, or upon the request of either House, as the rules of each House shall provide, appear before and be heard by such House on any matter pertaining to their departments." Note the disjunctive "or" that rejects President Arroyo's arrogant argument that all appearances of executive officials before any legislative investigation, including those requested by Congress, require her indispensable consent.

Her other desperate contention is that all such appearances without her consent are covered by "executive privilege," a lame excuse disallowed by our highest tribunal in at least two previous cases. Such defense was dismissed by the US Supreme Court when it was invoked by President Nixon during the Watergate scandal, but our own Supreme Court may have other ideas about President Arroyo.

It's not the Constitution, stupid!

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



Third, even if the funds were available, given the same Comelec leadership, it might make the same "mistake" again. And fourth, and most important, no move has been made to ensure that Garcillano- and Abalos-type appointments to the Comelec would be a thing of the past.

Who is responsible for this state of affairs? It is shared between the executive (who appoints) and the legislature (which confirms or denies the appointments).

Now on the matter of an efficient and functional bureaucracy. There were 1.445 million civil servants as of 1999, all overseen by the Civil Service Commission (CSC). The CSC, unlike the Comelec, has had consistently competent and professional government bureaucrats as chair—all of them women since Cory Aquino's time: Patricia Sto. Tomas, Corazon Alma de Leon, and currently Karina Constantino David. Each built upon her predecessor's achievements. Certainly, the improved credibility of the CSC among government employees is due to their efforts.

The mandate of the CSC is to uphold merit and fitness in the bureaucracy. Do you know that it has a qualifications standards manual that sets the level of education, level of training, years of experience and type of eligibility for every position in the bureaucracy? This presumably shields the bureaucracy from politics. The idea is that, while administrations come and go, the government bureaucracy can be counted on to ensure policy continuity and stability, as exemplified by the British Civil Service.

Why hasn't it happened here? Because cur-

rent law (which Congress hasn't seen fit to change) gives the President the appointing power over third-level career executive positions (from undersecretary down to the equivalent of assistant bureau director) numbering about 5,000, plus around 6,000 highly technical, non-career positions. And if the President's choices do not possess the civil-service requirements, which brave soul is going to squawk? Moreover, if the President moves people around for "exigencies of the service," who is going to question the decision? So much for merit and fitness.

That is why we have to suffer through the incompetence and corruption of appointees who are there not because of what they know but because of whom they know. And are horrified when a bureaucrat par excellence like Juan Miguel A. Luz—with a magna cum laude from a US college and a master's in public administration from Harvard under his belt, with training and experience in business, in community work, in government and in academe and who was doing an excellent job as undersecretary for finance and administration in the Department of Education—receives a one-sentence letter in fractured English from Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita that says: "We wish to thank you for your services as Undersecretary, Department of Education, effective immediately." All because Mike refused to break government finance and accounting rules.

Ermita actually thought he could get away with it. So when CSC Chair David stepped in and corrected him, he turned around and, citing "exigency of service," transferred Mike Luz to the Department of Labor.

My sainted foot! That sounds like grave abuse of discretion. Unless, of course, the President or Ermita can explain why Luz was moved out of the DepEd, which has yet no secretary and has only two undersecretaries when there should be four; and why, the Department of Labor, with Sto. Tomas at the helm, should be more in need of his services than the DepEd.

It's not the Constitution, stupid.

Gutsy Bunye

ONE HAS TO ADMIRE THE GUTS OF PRESS SECRETARY Ignacio Bunye as he dished it right back to some members of the House committee on appropriations. I suppose he sensed from the start that there was an attempt to convert the hearing for his department's budget into a rerun of the impeachment case against his boss. To begin with, Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla wanted Bunye to be sworn under oath, to which he objected, arguing that Cabinet members never had to do so for budget hearings. Then Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez opened the Garci tapes issue, which Bunye brought up last June before the Malacañang media. He refused to answer Golez's questions on the tapes, terming them "irrelevant" to the issue of his office's budget. He insisted that he was not "a witness" at a revived impeachment case. He later deplored Golez's "grandstanding," noting that the hearing was proceeding well "until the TV cameras arrived."

The normally calm, cool and collected Bunye walked out of the committee hearing in a huff, saying he would return only if accorded the respect due him as a Cabinet member and former House member. But cooler heads prevailed, and he did return two hours later, calmer and able to smile and extend his hand to his adversaries. *Napuno na si Bunye*, but the thoughts he uttered earlier at that hearing doubtless sat well with many citizens. Indeed, how often have I witnessed politicians being transformed the moment TV cameras start to grind. Let's hope a spirit of understanding and mutual respect can be fostered between officials of the two branches of government.

Before Archbishop Oscar Cruz joins Bro. Eddie Villanueva in jail, as he has threatened in case the latter is arrested for estafa, he better read the eye-popping case against Villanueva first. It was filed by Benito Araneta against Villanueva on Oct. 11, 2004. Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court Presiding Judge Rizalina T. Capco-Umali, after going through a "judicious determination of facts and considering the existence of a probable cause," issued a warrant of arrest and ordered a trial for the religious leader last April 4. On May 3, his

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



lawyer filed a motion for reconsideration and Umali ordered Araneta to comment. Last Sept. 22, however, the court dismissed the motion "as the issues raised were particularly the same."

Why the arrest order was not served by the Pasig police station commander, the National Bureau of Investigation or the Criminal Investigation Service in Camp Crame can only be deemed a political decision, but then, so is its service now being interpreted. But this does not take anything away from the case. Araneta claims in his affidavit that in February 2001, he and Villanueva began negotiating for a joint venture between his Entertainment Network Ltd. (Enter-Net) and Villanueva's Zoe Broadcasting Network (ZBNI). On March 29, 2001, they executed a memorandum of agreement for the turnover by ZBNI to Enter-Net of the management, programming and marketing of Channel 11, followed by a joint venture agreement (JVA) on June 15, 2001. Part of the consideration for the transfer of management and operation of Channel 11 was the payment of advances to Villanueva amounting to P15 million, in two separate checks on March 29 and Aug. 22, 2001.

Araneta claims that all through their discussions, Villanueva led him to believe that he was dealing exclusively with Enter-Net. But in late October or early November of 2001, he learned that prior to the execution of their MOA and JVA, Villanueva had already committed to sell or lease to VTV Corp., represented by Carlos Velez, the TV airtime of Channel 11 for 15 years, from 2000 until 2015. During that period VTV will solely manage and operate Channel 11, for which Velez had

already delivered to Villanueva at least P20 million. Araneta attached as exhibit a copy of the Villanueva-Velez MOU dated Feb. 28, 1999. He stressed that the realization that the respondent was selling to him the same thing he had already sold to Velez caught him by surprise since Villanueva had "falsely represented" to him that there was no impediment to ZBNI's entering into a contract with him. Upon learning about this MOU with Velez, Araneta refused to remit any further payments to ZBNI. He is now demanding the return of his P15 million advance.

I read Villanueva's defense in the media that in fact he was the one disadvantaged when Araneta did not make further payments to him. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has allowed Villanueva's lawyer, Lorna Kapunan, to file a petition for review, doubtless in an effort to blunt the opposition charge of political harassment. But unless Kapunan can show that the earlier MOU with Velez had been rescinded or voided by 2001, it's difficult to see how Villanueva can deny Araneta's charge of deception and misrepresentation.

Financial and management advisor Francisco J. Colayco, son of World War II hero Manny Colayco, launches his second book on how to make more money this Monday, Oct. 10, from 6-9 p.m. at the Tekrite Tower Auditorium in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. "Making Your Money Work: Pera Mo, Palaguin Mo!" comes on the heels of his immensely successful first book, titled "Wealth Within Your Reach," which is said to have sold 50,000 copies, a first in Philippine publishing. In that first book, which won the 2004 National Book Award's top prize in the business and economics category, Colayco sought to teach readers how to handle their personal finances even without any accounting background by simplifying financial principles. The second book, which comes with a "Pera Palaguin Workbook" co-authored by Prof. Helen S. Valderrama, will give readers the basics on how to make their savings and investments grow "the correct way." The book is available at popular bookstores.

A bill for the future

THE QUARTERS FOR CHILDREN IN CONFLICT with the law at the Caloocan City Jail reeked faintly of fresh paint, the only giveaway that special preparations had been made for the visit of "dignitaries" last Thursday.

Leading the list of visitors was Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, who had just delivered a sponsorship speech on the floor of the Senate for the Comprehensive Juvenile Justice System (CJJS) Bill a day before. Joining him were: Nicholas Alipui, country director for Unicef which is leading the global campaign for more humane treatment of children in conflict with the law; Caloocan City Mayor Enrico Echiverri; former Social Welfare Secretary Lina Laigo who now heads the Council for the Welfare of Children; Caloocan Executive Judge Victoria Paredes; representatives of the Juvenile Justice Network Philippines, and the media.

A total of 29 boys were confined at the city jail that day. There was one girl, 17, who had been staying at the women's section but she was released a few days before. The situation at the Caloocan city jail merely bears out the national situation of children in conflict with the law. Most juvenile "offenders" are boys, and most—80 percent—have committed their first and only offense.

When Pangilinan asked the boys, who were squatting in rows on the floor of their quarters, what they had done to end up in jail, most said they were there for petty crimes, mainly robbery and gambling, though one teenager was being held for murder. A group of three boys had been charged with "robbery in band," (later, a staffer of the Juvenile Justice Network who had interviewed them revealed that their crime consisted of stealing pieces of metal pipe valued at P270). One boy had been arrested for stealing a chicken and had been in jail for a week. "The chicken has already been freed but you're still here," the senator kidded him.

ON AVERAGE, according to statistics compiled by the Juvenile Justice Network, 10,515 Filipino children are being arrested and detained each year. Laigo estimates that at any one time,

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



between 2,000 and 4,000 children can be found in jails and prisons throughout the country.

By end 2004, reports the Philippine Action for Youth Offenders (PAYO), 21 children had been meted out the death penalty, with six confined in Camp Sampaquita, while 14 are on "Death Row" at the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa. The lone girl convicted of a capital offense is at the Women's Correctional.

The Juvenile Justice Network Philippines counts almost 12,000 cases of children in conflict with the law handled by the Public Attorney's Office in the first half of 2004, of which only 3,404 (29 percent) were resolved.

In many instances, children in jails and prisons end up serving longer terms than is warranted by the offenses they're charged with. Due to backlogs in the courts, children in conflict with the law have to wait months before they even get to an arraignment or hearing. Oftentimes, they're released forthwith, having served the maximum term for the offense they're accused of committing.

But being deprived of liberty and getting a fair hearing is the least of the children's concerns. Laigo worries about the long-term effects of imprisonment on children, especially those who, because of lack of facilities, end up sharing the same quarters as adult convicts. A study conducted by Save the Children Foundation in 2002 found that more than half of children in Southern Mindanao prisons reported having been sexually abused and were suffering from psychological harm. While the study found that most of the children who had been sexually abused while in custody were girls,

Laigo says being sodomized is a common complaint of boys in detention.

WHILE it may not be a "magic bullet," the CJJS Bill will, it is hoped, address some of the more serious issues regarding children in conflict with the law, specifically keeping children who commit petty offenses out of jail, and provide child-rights based treatment for them.

The bill, which has already been passed by the House committee on justice and reached plenary in the Senate in the last Congress, seeks to raise the age of criminal liability of children from the present 9 years old to 12.

It also calls for the creation of separate detention centers for children in the various prisons and jails, and the introduction of a "diversion program" for children in conflict with the law. As defined by the Juvenile Justice Network, "diversion is a process that deals with children in conflict with the law without resorting to court proceedings. Through terms the complainants, the child and his/her parents agree on—and with the help of stakeholders in the community—the child is held accountable and responsible for his/her offense. He/she is integrated back to the community through a program that includes supervision, education, counseling and community service.

THE DIVERSION program as well as other special programs for children in conflict with the law will, under the proposed law, be supervised by the "Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention," under the Department of Justice. And this is where the bill's passage has been encountering difficulties since it requires new funding and the creation of a new layer of bureaucracy.

Still, it would be shortsighted, at best, to allow the question of funds to dictate whether the bill would be passed or not. What's at stake here is nothing less than the future, and children, even if they do get in conflict with the law, deserve a future and have the capacity to create a new one for themselves no matter what they may have done in the past.

The promise of Iraq's constitution

COMMENTARY

Feisal Amin al-Istrabadi

mocratization process. In the end, Iraq's voters will decide whether this is a constitution under which they wish to be governed for the foreseeable future. Those who chose not to participate in last January's elections will most certainly do so now, both in the referendum and in the upcoming elections to a new assembly in December.

A second important feature of the drafting process was the extent to which the National Assembly complied with the requirements of Iraq's interim constitution, the Transitional Administrative Law (TAL). At the time of the transfer of authority in June of 2004, many pundits predicted that an elected National Assembly would ignore an interim constitution drafted by an unelected Governing Council and promulgated by an occupying authority. Yet that did not happen.

The TAL set a rigorous schedule for the assembly to complete an initial constitutional draft, and the assembly essentially abided by those limits. The deadline extension that it passed was in keeping with both the spirit and the letter of the TAL. At long last, it can be said that an Iraqi legislature understood that it was constrained by constitutional principals and the rule of law.

The test for institution building, however, will come once a constitution has been approved and a new government installed. Regardless of who wins the elections, there will be temptations to tinker with the constitutional text. Such temptations are understandable, and need not be animated by improper motives.

However, given the little weight given to constitutions in Iraq's modern history, it is likely that the political class will leave the text alone. Barring some compelling need, the calculus might well arise that it is more important to abide by the constitution for some time—and to be seen to be abiding by it—than to improve its provisions. Changes can always be proposed after a decent interval passes.

It goes without saying that it will be essential to establish that governance in Iraq is institutional, not personal. The American administration was absolutely right to resist the call to turn Iraq over to a caudillo, as some wanted. Iraq's salvation from the nightmare that it endured over the previous 35 years lies not in any one man; indeed, reliance on "one man" was the central ingredient in Saddam's rule.

Here again, Iraq's immediate past history allows one to be optimistic. The Iraqi Governing Council was not dominated by any single member, and Iraq's subsequent governments have also operated collegially.

Giving life to constitutionally defined political institutions is far more important to the course of Iraq's immediate future than the specific provisions that the constitution contains. That has been the missing ingredient, not only in Iraq, but also in other countries ruled by despots.

Constitutions frequently enshrine lofty principals, and nobly assure protection of fundamental rights. The question is whether those guarantees are given meaning on the ground. If the immediate past is a guide, one has reason for optimism in Iraq. Project Syndicate

Feisal Amin al-Istrabadi is Iraq's ambassador and deputy permanent representative to the United Nations. He was a key figure in the drafting of Iraq's interim constitution

Jaded

A QUICK GLANCE AT TODAY'S NEWSPAPER IMMEDIATELY triggers a throbbing pain in my head. Usually all the news on the front page are negative. Why do I even bother to look? The government is a shambles, and I don't need to read a newspaper to know that. However, I am a creature of habit. Much as I want not to read the newspaper and so spare myself the stress of reading about our nation's depressing situation, my father's influence remains strong. It was he who taught me to read newspapers. Besides, I am a law student and newspapers are good reading materials that help me understand the Constitution and its complexities.

The controversies swirling around us are interesting enough to catch my attention. But they also make me feel that hope of our country making a 180-degree turn and becoming politically and economically stable is diminishing. Our country's plight is sometimes so depressing that I am beginning to regret that the United States didn't make us a state like Hawaii.

I know that statement is an insult to our ancestors who fought with everything they got to regain our freedom. And being a patriotic Filipino, I should wash my mouth with soap for saying something like that. But with the condition our country finds itself today, I often catch myself wondering whether our lives could have been better if America had made us one of its states.

I remember a question my friend asked me three years ago. It was a hot Friday afternoon and we decided to beat the heat by eating special *halo-halo*. I was savoring the *ube* stuck on my spoon when she popped the question, "Mare, if given a chance, would you want the Philippines to be part of America?"

I do not know whether it was the heat or the frustration I felt when I realized that the "special" *halo-halo* only had six ingredients—ice, sugar, ube, sago, corn, and beans—but I vehemently shook my head like a dog drying his coat to indicate my strong disapproval. To me then, that was a silly question. "Ang sarap maging Pinoy 'ho!" I reminded her. I'd rather be a simple Juana dela Cruz than be in Uncle Sam's shadow. I'd rather enjoy my "special" *halo-halo* than hurt my teeth on beef jerky.

Well, my friend is now an "American adobo," living her dreams in the States while working as a bartender. She sent me an e-mail last week telling me she's happy. The pictures attached to her e-mail show that her complexion is now fair and she even has rosy cheeks. To think that she used to be darker than me, and I am *morena*. She's getting hitched this year to her American boyfriend, and finally, she will have the green card she always wanted. Her American dream is within her reach. The satisfaction I see on her face in the pictures is slowly making me envious. If only the Philippines were an American state, maybe there would be more satisfied Filipino faces.

Don't get me wrong, I have always been proud of being Filipino. I am always happy to see my countrymen succeed in their chosen fields and win recognition abroad. Nevertheless, I lose that sense of pride whenever I hear or read news that we are once again among the top 20 nations in terms of being the most corrupt, the most dangerous to visit, it, having the highest number of hungry citizens, etc. And I bet that given the tumultuous political situation obtaining in our country today, we might even be considered among the most politically unstable countries in the world. If we were an American state, such things would never have happened to us.

We have enjoyed independence for more than a hundred years now. Yet it seems like we are just starting from scratch. We have always proudly waved our diplomatic and economic independence, yet we remain a Third World country. China only recently reached out to other countries, yet it is already emerging as an economic power house. Vietnam, which suffered greatly during its fight with America in the 1960s, is now starting to improve economically. We used to boast that we would become the next Asian tiger, but it seems to me that we have been reduced to being a stray cat trying to imitate a roar.

I am beginning to worry that my pessimism is now eroding my hopes for our country. And this pessimism is now making me wish for things that are truly absurd. It is not easy for me to forget my dreams for this country. I am part of this country. I am a Filipino. But I cannot see how the progress we crave for will come if our country remains divided. Our citizens are already sick of people power. Why don't we start living by that old saying, "United we stand, divided we fall"?

Judie Rose Pimentel Tugado, 22, is a BS Development Communication graduate from University of the Philippines and is now studying law.

IN THE NEWS



Rep. Francis Escudero

Business, traffic as morality issues

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE MAJORITY OF our Catholic bishops and Church elders? The leaders of the Catholic flock to which I belong? Their statements make me feel like burying my head in shame.

Our bishops are speaking in discordant

voices to help keep Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in power and allow her to continue governing their flock. They appear like headless chickens wildly and aimlessly running in circles, sending out unintelligible and contradicting cackles of messages.

During this critical time, the people are divided over the issue of morality in public governance. A confused nation aches deeply for clear, moral guidance; and they are looking up to their elders for this.

But many of our Church leaders refuse to speak out, rightly or wrongly, on political issues, conveniently hiding under the principle of the separation of Church and State, as if human concerns can be so neatly dichotomized. They claim that their concern is morality. Now issues of right and wrong are hounding Ms Arroyo and her administration. Among them, the issue on wholesale cheating in the 2004 presidential elections, unabated corruption, suppression of the truth and brazen violation of human rights.

In the face of these moral issues, our Church leaders are saying we should not express our grievances in public. According to them, street protests and the exercise of the freedom of expression, both constitutionally guaranteed rights of the people, will disrupt business, traffic and classes.

I'm now wondering if my Church's leaders' moral concerns have been reduced to commerce and trade, traffic flow and punctuality in class attendance. I hope more of my Church's elders, including those in the community of the Couples for Christ, will rediscover their moral bearings and speak out as one voice against grand-scale cheating, stealing and lying. What can be more moral an issue than these?

—MA. GRACIA DE
V. RIÑOZA-PLAZO,
62 Katipunan Avenue Ext.,
Loyola Grand Villas, Quezon City

Without her resignation, no 'fresh start' for GMA

THIS IS A REACTION TO PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's paid ad—a despondent plea to all government employees for them to be by her side, even as it offered "a fresh start based on mutual respect, commitment, unity and teamwork."

In response, the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees and all its affiliates and chapters nationwide, reiterate the demand for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

The government is not on an even keel, obviously because its highest official does not enjoy public trust and acceptance. Government employees cannot tolerate a bureaucracy led by an anti-people and illegitimate President. To accept her offer of partnership is not only a disservice to the people; it is also to join the conspiracy to suppress the truth and perpetuate a reign of corruption and deceit.

We are against Ms Arroyo because her programs for the bureaucracy—salary freeze, cutbacks, austerity measures, plundering of the GSIS coffers, streamlining of bureaucracy/Executive Order 366 (read: mass lay-off)—seek to undermine not only the rights of employees but also public service.

Ms Arroyo has given public service a bad name. She epitomizes the exact opposite of the age-old adage "Public office is a public trust." She has violated the constitutional provision that public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty and

efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives.

Ms Arroyo cannot solve the Philippines' many problems because she is herself the problem. Of the many reasons why oil prices are high, why utility bills are rising, and why the nation is fractious, the most damaging is her skewed public policies. Her thrust toward the denationalization of basic industries, her propagation of self-interest, and her penchant for martial-law style repression make her the President Filipinos least like and definitely do not deserve.

Ms Arroyo is correct in asserting that civil servants are the keeper of the nation's welfare. Courage knows that the bureaucracy owes its allegiance to the people, not to her. And when the people are already up in arms against her, the faithful public servant must stand first with them.

There is professionalism, courtesy, and most especially, decency in joining the righteous call for Ms Arroyo's resignation. Our reason and integrity require of us to ask for a judicious resolution to this "episode of partisan conflict," as Ms Arroyo calls it. There can be no "fresh start" in governance without the resignation and trial of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—for crimes against government employees and high crimes against the people.

—FERDINAND R. GAITE,
national president,
Confederation for Unity,
Recognition and Advancement
of Government Employees,
9A KF Street,
Kamuning, Quezon City,
courage_mpmu@yahoo.com

INQUIRER Platinum Code



What's in the water means
a happy day ahead for you and yours

ERRATUM: We apologize for an error in yesterday's Platinum Code. In reparation, all entries sent in yesterday have been accepted as correct answers.

Find the answer to the question in the highlighted letters above. Highlighted letters may be used more than once. Text in your answer to 29768* for SMART, Globe, and Sun Cellular subscribers and get a chance to win in the weekly or grand draws!

*To join, initially send PDI<space>20<space>answer<space>name/address/age/gender to 29768. Ex.: PDI 20 ANSWER Jonah Imperial/#1 Paco St., Makati/22/F. For succeeding answers, the registered subscriber simply sends PDI<space>20<space>answer to 29768. Each entry sent is P2.50. Each participant is allowed a maximum of 3 entries per day.

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Oil companies' profits don't give total picture

THE INQUIRER ARTICLE ON THE COST AND prices of gasoline (PDI, 8/22/05) may create the wrong impression that oil companies have sacrificed tremendously under oil deregulation—their take or margin shrank from 23 percent under regulation to just 16 percent under deregulation. The information, however, does not show the total picture. It is silent on the point that the 23 percent under the past regulated regime was P2.67 per liter (based on an P11.62-per-liter pump price); while the present 16 percent is actually P5 per liter (based on a much higher price of P31.18 per liter).

Thus, in reality, under deregulation, oil companies greatly raised their per-liter-take from P2.67 to P5, or by a whopping P2.33 per liter.

The INQUIRER also reported that "Oil firms earn billions of pesos amid crisis." (PDI, 8/30/05) This suggests that what the old oil companies lost to the new market players in terms of market share or sales volume, they recovered from the public through increased selling prices (similarly enjoyed by the new players)—a win-win situation for all of them.

The best that Filipinos can have under the regime of deregulation, they had under regulation. Under the old regime, oil companies were allowed to raise their selling prices on a cost recovery basis only; and they charged on the new rates from the dates the low-cost oil inventories were exhausted. Can the public get a deal better than this? Certainly not, because under a deregulated environment, oil companies are not restrained from raising prices and margins.

In economics, deregulated or free market is the catalyst for sustained product supply at competitive prices. Incredibly, we already enjoyed this situation under the past oil regulation, under which: cheaper gasoline was much lower in pesos per liter; imported oil supply was continuous; and oil companies were not complaining for as long as they could raise prices even if on merely cost recovery basis. This situation stemmed from the need by multinational oil companies with integrated global operations to maintain regular crude oil sales outlets worldwide—rather than rely on the erratic spot market—so that even if they made just marginal profits out of their Philippine refining and marketing operations, it was still economical for them.

But then we opted for deregulation on the expectation that new market players will bring about lower prices. Indeed, we initially enjoyed lower prices from the new players. But after gaining their share of the market, they raised their prices to the same levels as those of the old oil companies. This is not surprising because in the oil industry, non-controllable costs—like imported oil, direct labor and taxes—constitute easily 85 percent or more of total cost, thereby giving new and smaller players very little elbow room for sustaining greatly reduced prices and margins.

—MARCELO L. TECSON,
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Palparan: Rebs suffer 'major setback'

By Tonnette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—MAJ. GEN. JOVITO PALPARAN Jr. on Wednesday said the New People's Army in Central Luzon has "suffered a major setback" from combat operations by government troops in just a month since he took command of the Army's 7th Infantry Division.

In a statement, Palparan also said his campaign against NPA rebels was "just the beginning." "We will get them ... the enemy is weak, out of control and will do everything to hide its losses in manpower and equipment," he said.

Palparan said clashes in the region since September had "killed five rebels, wound-

ed numerous others and recovered 20 firearms." He said soldiers also overran an NPA camp in San Luis, Aurora.

In Aurora, however, the church-based Justice and Peace Action Group (JPAG) said 1,400 families in San Luis have borne the brunt of intensified military operations since Sept. 27.

In a report sent by e-mail to the INQUIRER on Wednesday, Bernardo Marino, JPAG secretary, said troops from the 48th Infantry Battalion under Lt. Col. Josecito Kakilala have endangered the lives of civilians by bombing, restricting movements and establishing food blockades in at least two villages there.

A few families in Barangays Dimanayat and Dicapinisan managed to cross the mountains to evacuate to Dingalan town, but soldiers have barred other residents there from leaving, Marino said.

"Even fishing boats were not allowed to leave or enter the place," he said. Fishing and farming, the only economic activities in the villages, have been disrupted, he added.

Kakilala, Marino said, also ordered soldiers to assemble the residents in a

meeting where the military official supposedly warned that NPA sympathizers faced arrest if they did not surrender.

On Wednesday, the seventh day of the offensives, San Luis Councilor Elmer Susa said the villagers complained of hunger due to lack of food.

Susa urged the military to allow the villagers to set out to their mountain plots, resume fishing or buy food provisions from Dingalan or Baler towns.

Palparan said he was verifying the complaints in San Luis.

Joseph Vargas, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Aurora, said the actions of the troops in San Luis and in other parts of the province spoke of Palparan's trademark as an executioner of Mindoro and Eastern Visayas.

ROUNDUP

Outstanding Negrenses

DUMAGUETE CITY—Negros Oriental Rep. Emilio Macias II will lead seven other Negrenses as this year's recipients of the Outstanding Negrense Award by the provincial government. President Macapagal-Arroyo, who will visit this city on Oct. 14, for the awarding rites and opening of the Buglasan festival, will hand the awards. Gov. George Arnaiz said this year's awardees demonstrated leadership in their areas of expertise and made outstanding contributions to society. The awardees also include Felomina Cang, for business and entrepreneurship; Prof. Gerardo Maximo for education; Jane Faburada (posthumous), former schools division superintendent of Negros Oriental; former Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Eleuterio Chiu, now dean of the College of Law of Foundation University, for government service; Dr. Eusebio Benemerito, for health; inventor Gonzalo Catan, for science and technology; and lawyer Antonio Ramas-Lypitching Sr., for law.

Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Agri-waste burning ban



BACOLOD CITY—Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon has ordered the mayors of the province's 13 cities and 19 towns to enforce the ban on the burning of agricultural wastes in compliance with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 or Republic Act 9003. He said it is now five years since the law was enacted but it has yet to be fully implemented. "I am calling on the mayors' political will and commitment to make the law work," he said. Farmers have continued to burn their wastes, a method that has been prohibited because it pollutes the air, causes respiratory illnesses and diminishes soil nutrients. He asked the chief executives to enjoin their constituents to use environment-friendly means of disposing their wastes, including converting these into organic fertilizer.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

2 more party-list group members slain in Tarlac, Ecija

TARLAC CITY—A COORDINATOR OF the party-list group Bayan Muna in Geron, Tarlac was gunned down by armed men in Victoria town on Friday.

Police said Rolando Mariano, 53, also former president of the Tarlac Electric Cooperative Employees' Labor Union (Telu), was driving a white Tamaraw FX van, with four other Tarelco employees

onboard, when he was shot.

The five were about to enter the compound of the Tarelco office in Barangay San Fernando in Victoria when the suspects attacked them at about 9 a.m.

Police did not say if any of Mariano's companions was hurt. No details were given on the gunmen.

Jenny Mariano, 24, the victim's daughter, said her father had been a

lineman at Tarelco for almost 30 years and president of the cooperative's labor union for three terms until August this year.

In Nueva Ecija, the search for a member of the party-list group Anak Pawis who was abducted in her house in Guimba town on Sunday, ended on Wednesday after her body was found in Barangay Agcarno in that town.

Supt. Roel Obusan, chief of the Nueva Ecija police's intelligence and investigation bureau, said Cecilia Esteban, 55, was struck by a hard object and her face was barely recognizable.

Esteban's hands and feet were tied to her neck, Obusan said, citing reports received by his office. Russell Arador and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Suspected NPA rebels attack military camp in Rizal

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—AROUND 15 suspected members of the communist New People's Army attacked a military detachment in a far-flung village in Rodriguez, Rizal on Wednesday night, police said yesterday.

Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa said the NPA rebels, led by a certain Ka Donato, fired two rounds of M203 grenades at a camp of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division

in Barangay San Isidro at around 10 p.m.

The rebels, believed to be a unit of the Rizal-based Narciso Antazo Aramil Command of the NPA, were able to position themselves just 100 meters away from the camp, Verzosa said.

The first grenade exploded 15 meters away from the administration office of the camp while the second hit the post

of the base camp, he said.

The soldiers were able to return fire at the rebels, he added.

After a six-minute gunbattle, the NPA guerrillas retreated towards the mountainous area.

Verzosa said nobody from the rebels and the government soldiers was reported hurt in the assault.

It was the second attack of the communist rebels in Rodriguez town in just

three weeks.

On Sept. 21, seven suspected NPA members burned down two garbage trucks of Ren Transport in Barangay Macabud.

The attack is said to be aimed at pressuring the management of the trucking services to give in to the demands of the striking workers of the company. Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 8 (Saturday) - Opening Program/ ZAMBOANGA CITY DAY

(8:30 am) City Tours, Ecotourism & Cultural Tours
(12nn) Seafood Fiesta
(1pm) Golpe-Golpe na Barangay at Pasonanca Park
(4pm) Grand WOW Zamboanga Peninsula Showcase Parade /Opening/Program (Mayor Jaldon to Fort Pilar)
(6pm) Zamboanga City Night at Fort Pilar
(6:30pm) ADZU Fellowship Night at Astoria Regency

October 9 (Sunday) - ISABELA CITY DAY

(7am) Regatta de Zamboanga at Cawa-Cawa Blvd
(1pm) Cong. Erbie Fablan's "Nostalgic Showdown" at ZC Coliseum
(6pm) Grand Balikbayan Night (Una Noche de Requeridos) at Rigodon, Hacienda de Palmeras
(6pm) Isabela City Night at Fort Pilar

October 10 (Sunday) - ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY DAY

(7am) Conferencia Internacional de Asociaciones Zamboanguenas at Marican Garden Convention Center
(6pm) Zamboanga Sibugay Night at Fort Pilar

October 11 (Monday) - PAGADIAN CITY DAY

(8am) City & Shopping Tours
(11am) Seafood Fiesta
(1pm) Floral Float Parade
(3pm) Streetdance Competition along Guardia Nacional
(5pm) UZ Electric Parade at Canelar-Climaco Ave.
(6pm) Pagadian City Night at Fort Pilar
(7pm) Free Concert with Hale & Cueshe at ZC Coliseum

October 12 (Wednesday) - ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR DAY

(8:30-10am) FIESTA PILAR Balle na Calle at Plaza Pershing
(4:45pm) Religious Procession (Zamboangueno Balikbayan tribute to Mama Mary before start of Mass)
(6pm) Zamboanga del Sur Night at Fort Pilar

October 13 (Thursday) - DIPOLONG CITY DAY

(8am) Sports Tourism & Adventure Congress at Lantaka Hotel
(1pm) Travel Exchange at Lantaka Hotel
(5pm) Golf Tour
(6pm) Dipolog City Night at Fort Pilar

October 14 (Friday) - DAPITAN CITY DAY

(7am) Carrera de Zamboanga (Eco-Adventure Challenge)
(6pm) Dapitan City Night at Fort Pilar

October 15 (Saturday) - ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE DAY

(6pm) ZaNorte Night at Fort Pilar
(7pm) Concert Series 2005 Liza Macuja Ballet at ZC Coliseum

October 16 (Sunday) - SPECIAL CULTURAL DAY

(7pm) NCCA Night at Fort Pilar

October 17 - 22 ECO TREK ADVENTURE WEEK



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INQUIRER *Visayas*

Debate over Balangiga bells continues

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Balangiga, Eastern Samar

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON. SEN. RAMON "BONG" REVILLA, JR. has always been like his father in many ways. After following his father's footsteps in show biz and in politics, he now plans to star in another Balangiga movie as did his father in the 1970s.

The younger Revilla revealed his plan during his speech at the 104th anniversary of the Balangiga Encounter Day here last Sept. 28.

His speech was interrupted several times by the shrieks of his fans, most of them students, among a crowd of several hundreds that included local officials, army soldiers and officers and regional officials.

The elder Revilla starred in "Sunugin ang Samar (Burn Samar)" in the 1970s, an action film that a Balangiga-born priest had once described as "20 percent Balangiga and 80 percent Ramon Revilla." The son seeks to produce a well-researched film that would dramatize what happened in Balangiga on Sept. 28, 1901.

Senator Revilla hoped this project could influence the return of the town's church bells that were taken as war trophies by US soldiers at the height of the Philippine-American War in 1901.

Two of these bells are displayed at the F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming, while a third bell is with US troops stationed in South Korea.

During the reception after the program of the Balangiga encounter anniversary, Revilla asked the age of Capitan Valeriano Abanador, the leader of the Filipino attackers on Company C of the 9th US Infantry Regiment. No one could give him a correct answer.

Abanador turned 32 a few weeks before the 1901 attack that he led, having been born on Sept. 13, 1869. The senator turned 36 last Sept. 25.

The attack that Abanador led in 1901 resulted in the death of 48 of 74 American soldiers and officers stationed in the Balangiga garrison. Of the 26 survivors, only four were not wounded. The Filipino attackers suffered 28 deaths and 22 wounded.

Considered one of the worst defeats in US military history, the Filipino victory in Balangiga was followed by a still controversial episode when Brig. Gen. Jacob Smith waged a three-month "kill and burn" campaign to turn Samar into "a howling wilderness" from October 1901 to January 1902.

General Smith was eventually made the scapegoat for the shameful policy on Samar. He was forced to retire from the US Army following a court-martial.

Bells as hostage

In Wyoming, the recent Balangiga bells controversy is coming to a head.

INQUIRER sources said that previously silent veterans are now talking and pointing the blame for the fiasco at the state governor's office. They alleged a quid pro quo among the politicians, with the bells being held as hostage.

Early last month, a major shakeup in the Wyoming Veterans Commission (WVC) raised speculation that the new appointments of Wyoming Gov. David Freudenthal were linked to the bells controversy. This was triggered by the March 26 decision of the WVC to support a resolution to return to the Philippines the two bells displayed at the F.E. Warren Air Force Base.

The governor's action drew a commentary from Casper Star Tribune, the state-wide newspaper, in its Aug. 8 editorial. It said: "The Bells of Balangiga have become an embarrassment to Wyoming ... [The governor] allowed veterans groups to dictate a house cleaning in the Wyoming Veterans Commission—apparently because the commission had dared to suggest returning the bells to the Philippines. In doing so, the governor perpetuated a century-old grudge against a longtime US ally ... Whatever offenses were committed by either side at Balangiga [in 1901], reconciliation is long overdue ... Wyoming doesn't need these bells. America needs to give them back."

Do not reappoint

Among five names on a "do-not-reappoint" list headed by the governor were Robert Palmer, the previous WVC chair; Joseph Sestak, who raised the approved motion to return the two original bells in Wyoming to Balangiga; and William A. Thompson.

Thompson, a Korean War veteran and life member of both the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion (AL), had served the WVC for six years and had asked to be reappointed. He believed his support for returning the bells was one reason he did not get a new term.

Freudenthal had denied that the new appointments were linked to the vote on the bells. But Robert Craft, a VFW service officer and newly appointed WVC member, admitted that the bells issue had something to do with the governor's choice of appointments.

Craft accused the WVC of failing to represent the Wyoming veterans with their bells decision, which he claimed was opposed by veterans groups throughout the state.

Arthur Rymill, past VFW state com-

mander, belied Craft's accusation in a letter published by the Casper Star Tribune on Aug. 10: "It is high time that we extend our friendly hand and let these people have the historical bells that should be in their rightful place in the Philippines. I think the action taken by the [WVC] was right on target, then a few veterans expressed their feelings to the governor without clearance from the majority of veterans to get the governor to 'clean house' in the Veterans Commission."

Don Ewing, the director of the WVC, also refuted Craft's accusation. "I must make it clear that the veterans opposed to the return of the bells are the hierarchy of the VFW and American Legion. Between these two organizations, they have only [about] 12,000 veterans. Even though this group proposes to speak for all veterans, there are 45,000 that do not belong to either of these two veterans private service clubs. History has shown us that very few of the rank-and-file of these two organizations' members seldom know what their commanders are doing, and few even know of this opposition to the return of the bells," Ewing said in an e-mail to this writer.

Procedural trap

Sestak, who did not seek WVC reappointment, clarified in a letter published by the Casper Star Tribune on April 8 that the issue of the bells was "a long and carefully considered process."

He said members of the bells committee, within WVC, conducted a state-wide consultation from December 2004 to March this year and "received no opposition to the return of the bells and, in most cases, received support" from veterans and their groups.

He said it was the intent of the WVC to follow an orderly process and not provide any publicity for this issue until it was resolved with the governor

but someone made a news release without the permission of the commission and, to his knowledge, of any state official.

The WVC usually made decisions by consensus, and by unanimous agreement among its members who represented various veterans groups and geographical posts. Last March's action on the bells had the making of another consensus until somebody suggested a secret balloting that was agreed upon in good faith.

The balloting turned out to be a procedural trap that the opponents of the bells' return exploited later. The mystery also remains that the 11 WVC members present cast 12 votes, for an 8-4 count in favor. The matter was resolved by deducting one from the "yes" votes.

Confusing impasse

The rest is a confusing impasse. The Wyoming governor rejected the recommendation of his own commission, publicly declared that he opposed the return of the bells to the Philippines, and then admitted to the Balangiga mayor that the artifacts located on a federal facility are outside of his official authority.

The new WVC, which met for the first time last Sept. 24, also deferred action on the bells issue.

Jean Wall, who spoke on the bells at the WVC's meeting last March, said the bells must be returned to the Philippines as quickly as possible, if the bottomline here is to stop the intra-veteran feud they have caused in Wyoming.

She said the bells were being used for political and personal agenda that leave a trail of negativism with no benefits to any one country, people or individual.

She wished someone with power at the highest level of the US government would take notice and take action on the bells issue.

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Manila asked to stop construction in Arroceros

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LLDA) asked the Manila city government yesterday to stop the construction of a teachers' building in the controversial Arroceros forest park.

LLDA General Manager Casimiro Ynares III said the certificate of non-coverage (CNC) it issued in June, which the city government was using as basis

for proceeding with the construction, was technically not yet in effect.

Ynares said representatives of the Manila local government had not even claimed and signed the CNC and LLDA clearance.

Even before the permits were claimed, the city government already breached their provision allowing only minor excavations in the forest park, Ynares said.

Ynares, in a letter to lawyer

Emmanuel Sison, secretary of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, said the clearance specified that the National Museum be allowed to ascertain the archeological significance of the area.

Since the museum had not completed its assessment, construction should not be suspended, the LLDA said.

"All actions beyond the National Museum-approved activities are prohibited..." Ynares said.

The LLDA sent the letter after Ynares met with representatives of Winner Foundation, the park caretaker, against the Manila City Schools Division's plan to build a two-story administrative office in the park.

The foundation said there cement had been poured and posts built in the park beyond the area specified by the division for its plan.

An LLDA team went to Arroceros to verify Winner's claims.

Ynares said he was "hopeful" the Manila government would cease construction activities if the LLDA team confirmed the violation. He added he would bring in the police if necessary. "Manila has to correct the violations at their expense," Ynares said.

The National Museum, which has jurisdiction over the Arroceros forest park, did not attend the meeting of the LLDA and Winner Foundation, saying it had al-

ready discussed the issue with Winner. The museum issued a certification on June 14 allowing initial and preparatory work, including limited excavations in the park. It clarified later that the certification was not a permit to build.

The museum also urged the Manila government to modify the architectural design to integrate important stone structures in the archeological site.

Time to move on in Parañaque — Bernabe

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PARAÑAQUE MAYOR FLORENCIO BERNABE urged the city's employees "to move on and improve (their work)" following the dismissal by the Commission on Elections of the electoral protest filed by defeated candidate Pablo Olivarez.

A beaming Bernabe addressed city hall employees after a thanksgiving Mass held a day after he received news of the Comelec decision.

City hall officials and employees cheered the mayor as a marching band played while breakfast packs were distributed to visitors and employees.

"I am personally elated by this turn of events and would like to commend the Comelec for upholding the sanctity of the ballot and for affirming the mandate that the majority of the electorate gave me," the mayor said.

In a press conference yesterday, Bernabe announced that the city government was ready to embark on a new chapter with new projects aimed at improving the lives of residents.

He thanked those who remained faithful to him even during "those trying times."

The mayor said health and education programs would be his priority. A four-story community hospital was now on its second phase of construction while five schools were on the pipeline, the mayor told reporters.

Construction work on two elementary schools, R Serrano Elementary School Annex and Dr. Arcadio Santos National High School in Barangay Sun Valley and Moonwalk, respectively, had already been completed, he added.

Bernabe, however, admitted the city had yet to win the battle against crime, poverty and garbage.



PARAÑAQUE Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr. shows Comelec decision affirming his victory.

JESS YUSON

Rumors about looting in Malacañang confirmed

SEN. JUAN PONCE ENRILE has confirmed rumors that people close to former President Corazon Aquino looted Malacañang hours after the Marcoses fled in a hurry in February 1986.

He said he saw jewelry, a Swiss Bank contract and trust instruments in the house of a business tycoon in Dasmariñas Village, Makati, on Feb. 28, 1986.

The jewelry and documents were allegedly taken days earlier from the Palace by a group led by Aquino's sister-in-law, Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco, Enrile said.

Part of the Marcos jewels were "more beautiful and expensive ones [that] had already been grabbed by persons you often see in newspapers," the senator said.

Former Sen. Jovito Salonga, former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), confirmed Enrile's statement, saying it's all in his book, "Presidential Plunder."

In the book, Salonga said that former Tarlac Gov. Tingting Cojuangco knew about the looting at the Palace after the Marcoses left.

The story is an old issue but it's only now that somebody has officially confirmed it. It was the topic in coffee shops and high society parties but was talked about in whispers.

It's a little bit late for the story to come out since it happened more than 20 years ago. But truth sometimes has a way of making a roundabout trip before it reaches the public.

Many people who knew about the looting in Malacañang didn't come out pub-

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



licly to denounce those involved for fear of courting the ire of the public. At the time, President Cory was very popular and, by extension, her relatives were, too.

There was talk that Ms Aquino's relatives also looted the Marcos rest house in Olot, Leyte, and the Sto. Niño Shrine in Tacloban City. But nobody complained because, again, the public adored Ms Aquino so much and would have none of those reports.

We don't know whether or not Ms Aquino knew about the shenanigans committed by her relatives and some close advisers. She was too trusting of them.

Besides, she was too engrossed with the presidential task or hobnobbing with friends after office hours.

Vice Adm. Arthur Gosangan, Coast Guard commandant, should investigate a complaint of a female supplier that she was sexually harassed by a Coast Guard official.

The supplier tearfully recounted to me an experience she had with the Coast Guard official inside his office.

She said she visited the official to follow up a contract. But the official, she said, had something else in mind: he unzipped his fly and showed her his "little birdie."

Is that what Coast Guard officers do to female suppliers?

METROBRIEFS

No to extortion

PARAÑAQUE City police have busted a syndicate extorting money from buses plying the Cavite-Baclaran route following complaints from drivers. Norberto Doctor, a representative of the Cavite Bus Association, told city police chief Supt. Ronald Estilles that their drivers were told to hand over money to the syndicate, and if they refused, the group would slash their tires and break their windshields. Deputy chief Supt. Arturo Valdez said the group earned not less than P8,000 a day from more than a hundred buses plying Baclaran daily. Estilles said they needed the cooperation of the victims to pin down remaining members of the syndicate.



Jocelyn R. Uy

See you in court!

THE POLICE chief accused of sexual harassment is challenging his accuser to prove her allegations. Saying the sexual harassment charge against him was "plain harassment," Angono Police acting chief Chief Insp. Marlon Sapla said he was ready to answer the allegations in the "proper forum." A female radio reporter accused Sapla of harassing her when they went to a bar in Quezon City on Friday night. Sapla said his accuser should file a case in court instead of "using" the media. "I am ready to file counter-charges," he added. Sapla served as officer-in-charge at the Rodriguez Police for almost two months before he was reassigned to Angono Police only last Friday. Rizal Provincial Police director Senior Supt. Freddie Panen, however, told the INQUIRER the case had nothing to do with Sapla's transfer since the move had been planned even before the alleged incident took place. **Edson C. Tandoc Jr.**

Flicks for a steal

OCT. 12 is a good day to relax and see a movie in Quezon City. A 50-percent discount awaits moviegoers on that day, as a special treat from the Quezon City government on its founding anniversary. But the discount is only open to Quezon City residents who will need to show proof of residence, said Councilor Ariel Inton Jr. The discount is just one of several surprises in store for residents as the city celebrates its 66th birthday. Included in the two-week festivities are a call center job fair, medical and dental outreach programs, a cooperative congress, a bloodletting activity, a disaster management and preparedness seminar, a dance fest, sports tournament and a wellness program for senior citizens. A food festival, a bird show, rondalla and folk dance competitions, drum and lyre contests, and a photo exhibit were also on the program. **DJ Yap**



'Pajero Lady' strikes again

By Nancy C. Carvajal

BEING A FUGITIVE HAS NOT stopped her from bringing out her bag of old tricks.

Another robbery case was filed against Ma. Lourdes de Guzman, also known as the "Pajero Lady," in the Quezon City Prosecutors Office the other day.

De Guzman achieved notoriety by going around posh subdivisions in a Pajero van and talking household help into allowing her inside homes where she could allegedly steal jewelry and other valuables.

"A witness identified the suspect, also known as Mary Josephine Garcia, from police files," said PO3 Greg Maramag in an affidavit submitted to the fiscal's office.

De Guzman, who escaped while in police custody three months ago, allegedly robbed the house of Kristine Tablante of Lot 1, Blk 2, Mark St. Filinvest 2,

Bagong Silang, Quezon City, on Aug. 21.

Taken from the victims' house were assorted jewelry, an undetermined amount of cash in foreign currency, a cellular phone and expensive watches.

The victim was not home at the time of the incident.

A neighbor, who had identified De Guzman, said the suspect, with a male companion, was seen in front of the victim's house between 12:40 and 5:28 p.m. on the day of the robbery.

De Guzman was arrested early this year and given a jail of prison term of six to 20 years for robbery and detained at the Correctional Institute.

She was able to elude her guards when she was later admitted at the St. Luke's hospital where she had undergone an operation.

The guards were placed on temporary suspension while an investigation on her escape was ongoing.

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RITUALO: Team-high output

Ritualo triple lifts Air21

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—RENREN RITUALO DELIVERED A killer triple in the dying seconds to carry Air21 to a thrilling 88-86 victory over Purefoods Chunkee last night in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Ynares Center here.

Left open on top of the arc, the Air21 sniper let the three-pointer fly with 24 seconds remaining.

"They had all the chances but they blew it," said Air21 head coach Bo Perasol.

Marquis Chandler missed on a drive

while Kerby Raymundo and rookie Jordan Salvador put too much muscle on their follow-up shots in the dying seconds as the Giants failed to send the game into overtime.

The Express managed to hold down Chandler, who exploded for 28 points and 26

rebounds in the Giants' win over Red Bull.

"We didn't want Chandler to do that to us, so what we did was create a defensive rule on him," said Perasol, the fifth coach of the Express but the first one who steered them to victory in a season-opener since joining the league in 2002.

Chandler had 23 points but scored only five points in the fourth quarter.

In the second game, Talk 'N Text held San Miguel scoreless in the last eight minutes and opened its campaign with a 74-66 victory.

The scores:

First Game

AIR 21 88—Ritualo 17, Daniels 16, De Ocampo 12, David 11, Canalela 9, Arboleda 9, Tubid 8, Ferriols 4, Gonzales 3, Dacia 2, Sa 1, De Ocampo 0 Fran 0.

PUREFOODS 86—Chandler 23, Yap 16, Salvador 14, Raymundo 14, Castillo 9, Yap 6, Artadi 2, Pingris 2, Billones 0, Yee 0.

Quarters: 28-27, 46-56, 66-71, 88-86.

Second Game

TALK 'N TEXT 74—Cantrell 18, Pablo 13, Washington 7, Cardona 7, Taulava 7, Belano 7, Telan 6, Alapag 5, Carey 4.

SAN MIGUEL 66—Hill 21, Seigle 15, Calagulo 10, Belasco 9, Racela 5, Ildefonso 4, Tejada 2, Hubalde 0, Adriano 0, Villoria 0, Canlas 0.

Quarters: 15-20, 35-41, 61-56, 74-66

Que-Rosales on target for World Cup berth

KUALA LUMPUR—THE PHILIPPINES' ANGELO Que and Gerald Rosales posted a two-under-par 70 Friday to stay two shots off the lead after two rounds in the World Cup qualifier at the Kota Permai Golf and Country Club here.

Que and Rosales finished at eight-under-par

136 to remain in third place after two rounds. The RP pair stood just a shot off the second-placed Malaysian tandem of Danny Chia and Iain Steel.

Only the top two pairs after four rounds will get tickets to the World Cup.

Singapore's Mardan Mamat and Lam Chih Bing shot a 70, built around four birdies against two bogeys, in the alternate-shot four-somes format for a two-day score of 10-under 134, one in front of Chia and Steel, who kept a lock on the second slot with a 69.

The Singaporeans could have finished with a two shot lead, but Mamat missed a two-foot par save that curled away from the hole.

Tied with Que and Rosales at third place was Taiwan's Wang Ter-chang and Chang Tse-peng, who produced a bogey-free 69.

Thailand's Thaworn Wiratchant and Prayad Marksang made their presence felt on the leaderboard with the day's best score of 68, taking fifth place with a two-day 137.

Twelve teams from Asia, the Pacific and Europe, each comprising two players, are competing for two slots in November's 24-nation World Cup in Portugal.

The first and third rounds for the World Cup qualifier use the best ball format while the second and final rounds will use alternate shot.



Goma eyed as flag-bearer

ACTOR-SPORTSMAN RICHARD GOMEZ JUST might become the Philippines' flag-bearer in the parade of nations for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games slated Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 here.



GOMEZ

The 6-foot-2 Gomez will see action in both fencing and shooting events in the Games, a testament to his athletic prowess, according to fencing chief Celso Dayrit.

"I know that the flag-bearer requires some achievement," said Dayrit, who appeared with Gomez during yesterday's SCOOP sa Kamayan. "I think he (Gomez) has already proven that."

Gomez said he would be honored if he is chosen, saying: "Every athlete dreams of carrying the flag. It will be an experience of a lifetime for me."

Among those also being considered are boxers Violito Payla and Harry Tañamor, long jump



champion Marestella Torres, softball's Mark Rey Ramirez, wushu's Arvin Ting and Randy Catalan, and bowling king CJ Suarez.

Gomez won the SEAG gold in the 2003 Vietnam SEAG for the epee team event.

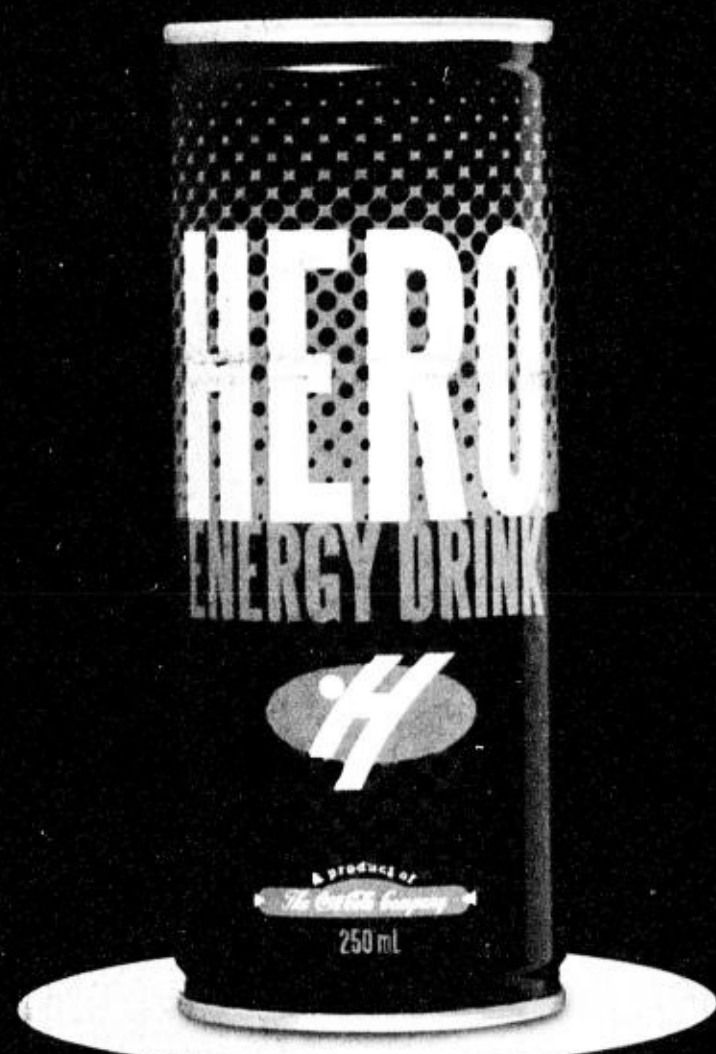
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WARNER BROS. PICTURES
© 2005 Warner Bros. Inc. All Rights Reserved**Thais 1-2 in HK Ladies Golf****Bondad
fades, ends
up third**

FRANCES BONDAD CRACKED UNDER PRESSURE and skied to a five-over-par 76 Friday, giving Thai ace Porani Chutichai all the room to run away with the Aquascutum Hong Kong Ladies Open Amateur Championship crown on a closing 70 at the Hong Kong Golf Club's New Course in Fanling.

Bondad, who sparked hopes of a Filipino victory in the annual event after matching par-71 and gaining a share of the second-round lead Thursday, simply could not match the steady plays of her Thai rivals.

That 76, marred by four three-putt bogeys, pulled down the newly crowned RP Amateur champion to third place at 220, in a tie with Lora Roberto, who fired a 73, and Hong Kong's Demi Mak (71) at the close of the 54-hole tournament.

Chutichai, who matched the 17-year-old Bondad's scores in the first two rounds, stayed focused in the final round for a 214 total, four in front of compatriot Pomanong Phatlum.

Phatlum carded a 74 for a 218, two strokes ahead of Bondad, Roberto and Mak, as the Thais showed their preparedness for the coming South-east Asian Games in Manila.

"The team still needs more practice," said national team coach Bong Lopez, still hopeful of a solid showing by his wards in the SEAG slated Nov. 27-Dec. 5.

United States-based Jayvie Agojo, the reigning RP Ladies Open champion who is on a scholarship grant at the Pepperdine University, will join the RP team in the SEAG.

Bondad got off to a shaky start, dropping a stroke on No. 3 after missing the green and flubbing an 8-foot par putt. She birdied Nos. 7 and 13 inside four feet but three-putted Nos. 5, 8, 17 and 18 and dropped two more strokes on 9 and 12.

Anya Tampico shot a 76 for a 226, followed by Regina de Guzman (84-231), Tracy Locsin (81-237), Debbie de Villa (82-242), Carmelette Villaroman (83-243), and Paulina Sotto (83-244).

**Manalo tops
New Jersey
straight pool**

FILIPINO cue artist Marlon Manalo brought down defending champion Dan Barouty of the United States, 200-123, in the finals to complete an undefeated run and rule the 2005 New Jersey Straight Pool Open in Parsippany, New Jersey, recently. The 29-year-old Manalo from Mandaluyong City barged into the finals with a 150-42 win over the hitherto unbeaten Barouty. Manalo, whose US stint was backed by Solar Sports and Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, earned \$5,000 for the win. Barouty, who beat West Covina, California-based Jose "Amang" Parica, 150-123, in the semis, settled for \$3,000.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

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CINEMA SCHEDULES

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA	
INTO THE BLUE 2:05 / 4:35 / 7:05 / 9:35	INTO THE BLUE 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	DUBAI 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
CORPSE BRIDE 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	TRANSPORTER 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	PERFECT CATCH 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
UNDISCOVERED 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	LAND OF THE DEAD 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 DUBAI 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20	4 THE DESCENT 12:10 / 2:15 / 4:20 / 6:25 / 8:30
2 INTO THE BLUE 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	5 THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
3 TRANSPORTER 2 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

Oct 9 Sunday ALASKA vs RED BULL 4:10 pm GINEBRA vs STA LUCIA 6:40 pm	MICHAEL BUBLE WORLD TOUR 2005 October 12, Wednesday 8 pm
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CENTER EVENTS

QULINARY CITY	Araneta Center Food Festival ongoing until November 12. Cooking Demo by the Center For Culinary Arts at Gateway Rustan's Fresh at 3pm today.
SMB OKTOBERFEST	Every Friday & Saturday for the whole month of October at the Gateway Drive starting 9pm

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in Sletba Open**

RECORDS ARE FALLING LIKE THE PINS IN THE 9th Megaeast-SLETBA Open Championships at the Sta. Lucia East Bowling Center in Cainta.

Botchock Rey, Gene Basa and Benny Dyotoc of PBAB-Bowlmart combined for a series of 1483 that broke the national record for the team event, while Richie Poblete (TBAM-Prima) scored two perfect games and tied the RP mark in the singles with a 1103 series (300-267-236-300).

In addition to Poblete's two perfect games, JC Tupaz (TBAM-Prima) and Norman Gonzales (TCBA-Freyssinet) also bowled 300s, a feat unheard of in local competitions.

Qualifying leaders in the Open Division are RJ Bautista (Seeded-ATBA), Poblete 1103, Raoul Miranda 1035 (MTBA) and Tupaz.

Leading the Graded Division are Jert Santos 1027 (SLETBA-Batang X), NB Valderama 976 (TBAM-Prima) and Lito Santarinalla 971 (SLETBA-FilEstate).

Jessica Jopson (PBAB) led the Ladies with her 891, followed by Hall of Famer Bong Co (MBA) 877 and Girlie Solis (TBAM-Prima) 854.

Winning FEU coach shuns the spotlight

By Jasmine W. Payo

FAR EASTERN U COACH BERT FLORES DOESN'T MIND IF HE DIDN'T GET HIS share of the championship spotlight.

In fact, the unassuming title UAAP title winner insists credit should be on his players, led by two-time Most Valuable Player Arwind Santos, Mark Isip and RJ Rizada.

Flores swears he was lucky to have inherited a champion team.

"This is my rookie year as a coach and I owe a lot to my senior players," said Flores, after his Tamaraws bagged the UAAP basketball crown by sweeping defending champion De La Salle Archers in a best-of-3 at the Araneta Coliseum Thursday evening.

"Finally, I can have some sleep," he said, adding that he felt relieved now that the Tamaraws have validated their No. 1 billing the entire season.

"La Salle is a strong team. They



FLORES

could always come back. It was very hard preparing for them."

Yes, he did a lot of hard work behind the scene, but Flores would always put the attention back to his hardworking crew.

"I'd like to thank my players, especially Arwind, Jonas (Villanueva) and Mark," he said. "They (Archers) knew it's going to be Arwind in the last minute (of Game 2), so I just told him to play decoy. Jonas also showed experience, he didn't panic."

Santos came through the clutch in the Tamaraws' 75-73 Game 1 victory. In Game 2, Villanueva scored key baskets in the closing minutes, while Isip completed a game-clinching three-point play for a 73-71 triumph.

"La Salle had a lot of adjustments (in Game 2)," said Flores, who previously served as assistant to former mentors Koy Banal and Danny Gavieres.

"Coach Franz (Pumaren) is very good," he added. "He's a very intelligent coach. But I've seen them play for seven years."

Evidently, Flores' loyalty to the school paid off.

Before toiling in FEU's sidelines, Flores had also suited up for the Tamaraws from 1988 to 1992.

"God is good," said Flores after winning the UAAP Coach of the Year award for steering the Tamaraws to the championship in his first year.

Is it yes or no, Peping asks Fiba

PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE PRESIDENT Jose "Peping" Cojuangco is seeking a clear answer on whether or not the Philippines would be allowed to host basketball in this year's Southeast Asian Games. Cojuangco has asked Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann for a categorical answer on the issue in a

letter sent via telefax. Cojuangco explained to Baumann that the latter's communique on Oct. 5, citing that it is unlikely that Fiba could grant recognition to a new basketball federation from the Philippines when Fiba Statutes provisions are applied, did not address the SEA Games question squarely.

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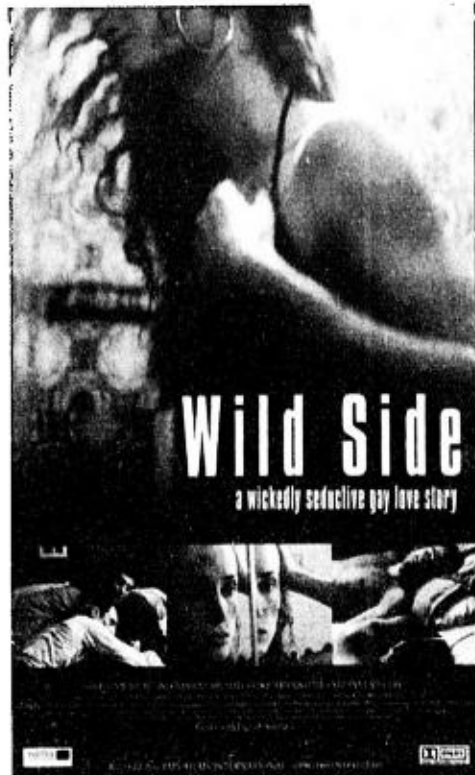
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GTK wants out of Peping clique

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

Peping Cojuangco, Philippine basketball is back to square one.

There is only one way for the Fiba ban to be lifted and for our country to see action in the basketball event of the SEAG. The POC will have to reinstate the BAP.

Why am I saying this?

I will just mention two simple, easy-to-understand reasons: First, the Fiba will only grant recognition to the newly formed basketball body it has recommended after the staging of Southeast Asian Games in Manila this November.

Second, PBA Chairman Ely Capacio has declared in no uncertain terms that the PBA cannot be a member of the new cage body, "because we are a different body, and we only want a working relationship with the other associations."

Baumann has made it a prerequisite for major basketball stakeholders like the PBA, the PBL, the UAAP and the NCAA to be members of the new cage federation.

Incidentally, as members of a Fiba-sanctioned organization, the stakeholders will now be under the control and jurisdiction of the Fiba. I wonder if they realize this.

Thursday afternoon, word leaked out that Patata president Go Teng Kok was resigning from his post as special assistant to the POC president.

"Maraming sama ng loob si GTK. Late-ly yata, for example, hindi na siya isinasama ng grupo sa mga meetings," said our unimpeachable source who informed us that GTK was submitting his irrevocable resignation the following day.

At noon yesterday, we got an update from our source. GTK had appeared at the Intercon Hotel where there was an ongoing meeting among POC officials, to submit his letter of resignation.

Among those who were there were Steve Hontiveros, Robert Aventajado and Joey Romasanta, to whom GTK had handed the letter.

Peping had already left when GTK got there, according to our source.

"Ayaw nilang tanggapin yung resignation. They advised GTK to give it more thought. Mag-isip-isip daw muna siya, dahil baka nabibigla lang. I don't know if GTK will relent," said our source.

"But we will know by tomorrow (Oct. 8) if he has had a change of heart. If he shows up at the scheduled POC general assembly, then it's obvious that he has reconsidered."

"However, if he's not there, baka hindi tumalab yung karinyo. Baka tuluy-tuloy nang hindi siya um-attend ng POC meetings forever," said our source.

As of yesterday afternoon, I was calling GTK for a statement.

A PBA insider pulled me aside during the games at the Araneta Coliseum last Wednesday.

"This Ateneo alumnus you mentioned in your last column, I know who he is. But he's no longer with the PBA now. Nasa States na with his new ladylove. Siguro mga one or two years nang wala," he said.

A lady PBA habitué, the mother of a cager, had suspected that the philanderer was an assistant coach from another team.

"Hindi lang ako, marami pang iba. Kasi Ateneo alumnus din ito, hiwalay sa asawa, and is currently active in the PBA," she said.

Well, I didn't know that the guy had run off to the US with the wife of his fellow Ateneo alumnus, leaving behind a promising coaching future.

What made this relationship censurable, according to a PBA coach, is the fact that the other woman is a close friend of the couple.

"I can't remember exactly if she was the best friend of the coach's wife or if the husband was the best friend of the coach, or if the two couples were best friends. Basta ang alam ko, they were pretty close. Parang nagkaroon ng ahasan. Sayang, okay na okay pa naman yung wife na naiwan. Athlete din, matangkad, may hitsura," disclosed the coach.

HOOPVINE: Got good reviews on Sta. Lucia's Alex Cabagnot and Ginebra's Romel Adducul on their opening day performance... Shell forfeits its PBA franchise if it is not sold by February 2006... There is a move to propose amnesty for all the Fil-Ams who have not completed their citizenship documents... Sports vigilante Elmer Sta. Maria was surprised to find out that I knew nothing about the cause of the Alex Crisano-Ethel Booba breakup... "Why that was weeks ago and it was even on television. Ethel's sister had Alex arrested for acts of lasciviousness. Crisano was accused of fondling the sensitive parts of the household help who was giving him a massage," Elmer reported.

Braves, Smoltz melt Astros



ST. LOUIS Cardinals' Abraham Nuñez (foreground) slides past San Diego Padres catcher Ramon Hernandez in the third inning.

NEW YORK—JOHN SMOLTZ SCATTERED SEVEN HITS OVER SEVEN INNINGS AND Brian McCann hit a three-run homer, leading the Atlanta Braves to a 7-1 win over the Houston Astros in National League Division series at Turner Field on Thursday.

The Braves bounced back from a game one loss to tie the best-of-five series 1-1, with the series moving to Houston for games three and four over the weekend.

Smoltz won his 15th post-season game, moving back ahead of Andy Pettitte for the most in playoff history after Pettitte tied his mark in winning game one.

The Braves veteran allowed one run while striking out five and walking one, getting the better of Roger Clemens to get the Braves back into the series.

Jason Lane opened the scoring for the Astros with a run-scoring single in the first, but the Braves scored three runs in the second and two more in the third to give Smoltz all the offense he would need.

McCann's three-run homer in the second off Clemens in his first playoff at-bat

put Atlanta ahead to stay 3-1.

Adam LaRoche added a two-run double in the third for the Braves, who had 11 hits off four Houston pitchers.

Andruw Jones had three hits, scored three times and drove in a run for the Braves, who have won 14 consecutive division titles.

Ryan Langerhans and Rafael Furcal both had two hits for the Braves, with LaRoche walking twice in addition to his double.

Clemens lasted just five innings, allowing five runs on six hits with three walks and two strikeouts.

Willy Tavares had three hits for the Astros, while Lance Berkman added a pair of hits in the game, played in a steady drizzle for the first few innings.

Reuters

Cardinals near sweep

ST. LOUIS—SOUTHPAW MARK MULDER pitched six shutout innings and the St. Louis Cardinals defeated San Diego 6-2 here Thursday, moving to the brink of advancing in the Major League Baseball playoffs.

The Cardinals, who won the series opener 8-5 on Tuesday, can reach the National League finals and complete a sweep of the best-of-five series with a victory in Game 3 Saturday at San Diego.

Defending National League champion St. Louis was swept by the Boston Red Sox in last year's World Series.

David Eckstein drove in two runs and Reggie Sanders hit a two-run double in the seventh inning for all the scoring the Cardinals needed.

Mulder, who missed last year's playoffs with shoulder troubles, surrendered eight hits and a walk in 6 2/3 innings.

He induced 17 ground outs and kept Padres batters at bay until the seventh inning, when three consecutive hits to open the inning pushed across the first San Diego run.

AFP

Corrales, Castillo ready for rematch of epic bout

LAS VEGAS—Their first bout was an epic brawl, brutal for nine rounds and breathtaking in the 10th. Diego Corrales and Jose Luis Castillo think it only natural they go at it again. "They're paying us and that's what we do," Castillo said. "We're fighters." Five months later, Corrales and Castillo engage in a rematch Saturday night. At stake once again is the lightweight title. "This is a war of attrition," Corrales said. "This is the final battle. I am here and I will die in the ring before I give up what I have." What Corrales has is the lightweight title, which he carried out of the ring with him after both giving and taking a beating in a fight that was destined to be a classic even until the dramatics of the final round. In that round, Corrales was knocked down twice only to get up both times and turn the fight around with a series of punches to the head that ended the fight with Castillo out on his feet against the ropes.

AP

WBC pits Vilorio against Rubillar

By Salven Lagumbay

THE WINNER OF THE REMATCH between superstars Erik Morales and Manny Pacquiao will be the mandatory challenger to WBC super-featherweight king Marco Antonio Barrera.

But the more intriguing development for RP boxing at the World Boxing Council convention in Spain involved world junior flyweight champion Brian Vilorio who has been mandated to fight Filipino Juanito Rubillar.

WBC head Jose Sulaiman ruled that Barrera should face the winner between No. 1-ranked Morales and No. 2 Pacquiao in their rematch set at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas on Jan. 21.

The WBC also ruled that winner in the Vilorio-Rubillar showdown should defend against Thai Wandee Singwancha.

Vilorio won the WBC light flyweight title with a sensational first-round knockout of defending titlist Eric Ortiz of Mexico at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California.

Monty takes 3-shot lead

SAN FRANCISCO—COLIN MONTGOMERIE missed only two greens and matched his career-low round in the United States with a 6-under 64 that gave him the lead Thursday in the American Express Championship.

The 42-year-old Scot, coming off his first victory in 19 months four days earlier, surged into lead with three straight birdies to close out the back nine, including an approach into 6 feet on the 470-yard 18th hole.

He moved to the front, where he missed two birdie chances with putts that caught the lip of the cup, but he hit a wedge within 18 inches of the pin on the seventh hole.

Tiger Woods, Vijay Singh and nine others were at 67 on a clear day at Harding Park, the municipal course that received a \$16 million renovation.

Montgomerie was most pleased that he completed his round without a bogey.

"If I can hit fairways, I can hit greens," he said. "And then I can score."

AP

GDAP honors Juvic tonight

THE GOLF DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines will honor golfers who won tournaments here and abroad tonight in a ceremony highlighting the 10th Philippine International Golf Show at the Megatrade Hall 2 of SM Megamall.

Juvic Pagunsan leads the list of achievers who will be awarded the Golf Personality trophies. The awards rites will start with cocktails at 6 p.m.

Also to be awarded are jungolf standouts Wolen Juan Superal, Dottie Ardina, Andie Unson, Miguel Tabuena, Marcel Puyat and Maan Legaspi, Jayvie Agojo, Frances Bondad, Raymund Sangil, Katrina Gonzales, and professionals Rico Depilo and Robert Pactolerin.

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1. INTO THE BLUE 11:30FS/11:55MF/12:10:04:25/06:40 08:30LS/09:00LMF/10:50END	1. BROTHERS GRIMM 12:00FS/12:10MF/12:30/04:50/07:10 09:10LS/09:30LMF/11:30END
2. CORPSE BRIDE 11:30FS/11:55MF/12:10:04:25/06:40 08:30LS/09:00LMF/10:50END	2. INTO THE BLUE 12:00FS/12:10MF/12:30/04:50/07:10 09:10LS/09:30LMF/11:30END
MEGAMALL	3. DARK WATER 11:20FS/11:30MF/11:40:03:00/05:30/07:30 09:15LS/09:30LMF/11:15END
3. TRANSPORTER 2 11:00FS/11:15MF/11:30:03:30/05:40/07:50 09:30LS/10:00LMF/11:25END	MANILA

SM MEGAMALL	SM CITY FAIRVIEW	SM NORTH EDSA
1. INTO THE BLUE	1. PERFECT MAN	1. HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
2. HISTORY OF VIOLENCE	2. BLADE OF THE ROSE	2. 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3. TRANSPORTER 2	3. DARK WATER	3. TRANSPORTER 2
4. LAND OF THE DEAD	4. INTO THE BLUE	4. LAND OF THE DEAD
5. TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE	5. TRANSPORTER 2	5. TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
6. AUSTRALIAN FILM FEST	6. 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN	6. TRANSPORTER 2
7. 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN	7. HISTORY OF VIOLENCE	7. INTO THE BLUE
8. A SOUND OF THUNDER	8. LOVESTRUCK	8. DUBAI
9. DUBAI	9. DUBAI	
10. TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID	10. BROTHERS GRIMM	
11. UNDISCOVERED	11. LAND OF THE DEAD	
12. BLADE OF THE ROSE	12. UNDISCOVERED	
SM CITY SIA MESA	SM CITY SOUTH MALL	SM CITY MANILA
1. INTO THE BLUE	1. INTO THE BLUE	1. UNDISCOVERED
2. LAND OF THE DEAD	2. TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE	2. TRANSPORTER 2
3. TRANSPORTER 2	3. DUBAI	3. TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
4. 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN	4. 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN	4. BROTHERS GRIMM
5. DUBAI	5. LAZARUS CHILD	5. INTO THE BLUE
6. PERFECT MAN	6. HISTORY OF VIOLENCE	6. DUBAI
7. UNDISCOVERED	7. TRANSPORTER 2	7. PERFECT MAN
8. BLADE OF THE ROSE	8. LAND OF THE DEAD	8. LAND OF THE DEAD
9. HISTORY OF VIOLENCE	9. UNDISCOVERED	9. BLADE OF THE ROSE
10. BROTHERS GRIMM	10. LOVESTRUCK	10. HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
11. UNDISCOVERED		11. DUBAI
12. BLADE OF THE ROSE		12. DUBAI
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT	SM CITY RICUTAN	SM SAN LAZARO
1. PERFECT MAN	1. INTO THE BLUE	1. INTO THE BLUE
2. INTO THE BLUE	2. DUBAI	2. HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3. DUBAI	3. BLADE OF THE ROSE	3. TRANSPORTER 2
4. TRANSPORTER 2	4. TRANSPORTER 2	4. 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
		5. UNDISCOVERED
		6. DUBAI

LUZON	VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY PAMPANGA	SM CITY CEBU
1. BROTHERS GRIMM	1. BROTHERS GRIMM
2. INTO THE BLUE	2. INTO THE BLUE
3. A SOUND OF THUNDER	3. DARK WATER
4. LAND OF THE DEAD	4. PERFECT MAN
5. BLADE OF THE ROSE	5. THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
6. DUBAI	6. LAND OF THE DEAD
	7. DUBAI
SM CITY BAGUIO	SM CITY ILOILO
1. SISTERHOOD	1. BROTHERS GRIMM
2. SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PARTS	2. RESERVED
3. LAND OF DEAD	3. DUBAI
4. BROTHERS GRIMM	4. DARK WATER
	5. PERFECT CATCH
	6. A SOUND OF THUNDER
	7. RESERVED
	8. LONG WEEKEND
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	98. LONG WEEKEND
	99. RESERVED
	100. LONG WEEKEND

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UNDISCOVERED PG-13
12:45, 2:55, 5:05
TRANSPORTER 2 PG-13
8:20, 10:20

TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE GP
12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

DUBAI PG-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN R-13
12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

HISTORY OF VIOLENCE R-13
1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

INTO THE BLUE PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 CORPSE BRIDE
MTRCB GP
11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

2 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
MTRCB R-13
11:20, 7:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

3 DUBAI
MTRCB PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

4 INTO THE BLUE
MTRCB PG-13
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
TRANSPORTER 2
MTRCB PG-13
1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00

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A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

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star of
"The Lord of the Rings" Trilogy

THE HARRIS BELLO HURT

Tom Stall had the perfect life... until he became a hero.

Beach volley on tomorrow

THE FIRST SAMSUNG WOMEN'S INTER-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge starts tomorrow at the Cantada Sports Center in Bagumbayan, Taguig City.

Cantada Sports Center's Edgardo "Boy" Cantada bared this yesterday as he reiterated Cantada Sport's commitment in the development and promotion of the sport.

Sixteen teams from eight schools have signed up for the event. Leading the field is College of St. Benilde with five teams followed by Adamson with four.

Completing the pack are FEU with two and University of Asia and the Pacific, Lyceum, Divine Word College, St. Francis College and PATTS with one apiece. Ateneo and UST are expected to submit their teams shortly.

Other supporters are Cowhead Milk, Rebisco Biscuits, Sunbolt, Tanduay and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Tri-media badminton on

FIFTEEN teams battle it out for honors in the inaugural Philippine Tri-Media Badminton Tournament today at the Feathers and Strings in Intramuros, Manila. Organized by the Media Sports Club headed by Edith Datuin Angeles of Inquirer Publications Inc., the event is being held in cooperation with the Powerade Badminton Challenge. Other backers of the event are Coca-Cola Export Corp., Philippine Star, Unilever Philippines, Shoemart Inc., McDonald's, Autohaus BMW, SMART, Feathers and Strings, Stratworks, Triple V, Gloria Jeans Coffee and Tamayo's Catering Services. Participating teams are Inquirer Publications Inc., Philippine Star, Manila Bulletin, Tempo, Manila Standard Today, Manila Times, Malaya Badminton Club, Abante, ABS-CBN, RPN-9, IBC-13 Radio Pilipino, MSC All Star and Philippine Press Institute.

Milo Junior Tennis Cup

THE QUEST for free trips to the Malaysia Junior Tennis Circuit shifts to high gear when the last regional eliminations for Mindanao of the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup is hosted by the Nazareth Tennis Club in Cagayan de Oro City starting today. Featured events in the netfest organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by Adidas are the boys' and girls' 14-under, 12-under and the unisex 10-under. The five regional champions travel to Manila for the National Finals on Oct. 29-30 to determine the players who will compete in Malaysia tournaments in December.

Stag Festival screening

COCKERS and breeders who will compete in the Stag Festival 5-stag derby (Oct. 15, 17 and 19) are requested to bring their stags at Roligon Mega Cockpit office tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for screening. Those who prefer farm-to-farm screening may contact 851-2275, 833-1638, 852-9812 or 0917-8277484. Thus far, 177 entries have joined the event to be hosted by Roligon owner Rolly Ligon, who put up P1.3 million and an Isuzu Big Horn for the fastest winner. Entry fee is P7,700. Supporting Ligon in this blockbuster event are pit managers Renato Shio, Gerald Go and Abu Centeno. Sponsors are Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone.

Makati Coliseum derbies

TWO big-time derbies are lined up at the Makati Coliseum next week. The Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-stag derby blasts off on Monday with more than 70 fights. Another 5-stag derby sizzles on Wednesday to be hosted by Tony Marfori and Efrén Canlas. Last Monday, Sonny Lagon and Gerry Ramos topped the fifth PCAP derby after their combined entry Blue Blade Joke Joke posted five wins in as many fights. In another development, Boy de Roca and Ric de Guzman's Kampi Ni Butch bet piled up seven victories to rule the NCA 7-stag derby Thursday night. For details, call 896-3545 and 895-6475.

Sportsman's mother dies

FRANCISCA Ortiz, mother of sportsman Willie Ortiz, died yesterday. Her body lies in state at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills. Willie is the president of Sportem Phils. Inc, sole distributor of Accel.

Las Piñas tilt today

COCKERS from Cavite and Las Piñas City will challenge the members of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) in an exciting 3-stag derby tonight at the Las Piñas City Coliseum. Hosting the event is Eric Carreon with support from Gerry Ramos and former Mayor Nene Aguilar. Competing are Boy de Roca, Dicky Lim, Patrick Antonio, Pol Estrellado, Sonny Lagon, Wewe Burgos, Alex Tobias, Gen-gen Arayata, Louie Cua, Butchay Olano, Renato Shio, Emil Chua, Henry Medina and Danny Alejo. The event is a follow-up to the 3-stag derby last week won by TY One of Alex Tobias, Scorpio of Ricky Valencia, Boss Danny Oct. 29 of Danny Alejo and B. Lito entry. Contact 873-1040 and 874-3910.



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At the Activity Center

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9th Culinary Kitchen & Food Expo 2005 October 8 to 11 Coffee Break Destination Coffee October 1 to 16	Laguna Expo October 8 to 14	Sign Language October 9, 2005



Manila, My Manila Photo Exhibit featuring the Finalists' Entries
September 30 to October 30 - GB 3 Ground Floor Lobby,
Cinema Lobby & Casa Armas Restaurant
The Phil. School Of Interior Design,
Advanced Class of 2005 Lifestyle Exhibit
October 1 to 30, 2005



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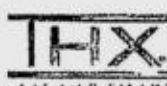
Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at
Ayala Museum
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org



AYALA CINEMAS

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart)
or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.



Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1	GLORIETTA	1	THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN	2	INTO THE BLUE	3	DUBAI	4	TRANSPORTER 2
G4	GLORIETTA	1	DUBAI	2	HISTORY OF VIOLENCE	3	INTO THE BLUE	4	TRANSPORTER 2
GB1	GREENBELT	1	SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL For more details, call 752-7865	2	SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL For more details, call 752-7865	3	INTO THE BLUE	4	TRANSPORTER 2
GB3	GREENBELT	1	THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	2	INTO THE BLUE GUARANTEED SEATS	3	CORPSE BRIDE 1:55, 3:50, 5:45, 7:40, 9:35 GUARANTEED SEATS	4	TRANSPORTER 2 2:40, 4:45, 6:50, 8:55, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1	INTO THE BLUE	2	DUBAI	3	THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN	4	CORPSE BRIDE
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	DUBAI	2	INTO THE BLUE	3	PERFECT MAN	4	DARK WATER



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- DUBAI
- CORPSE BRIDE
- TRANSPORTER 2
- INTO THE BLUE
- THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN

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October 8, Central Plaza
10 am - Registration
2 pm - Program
5 pm - Advance Screening, Cinema 1

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• Wallace & Gromit Vegetable Relay
• Spell That Vegetable
• Fruit Eating Contest
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GALLERIA

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1 THE PERFECT CATCH • THX 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	6 TRANSPORTER 2 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
2 INTO THE BLUE 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	7 THE DESCENT 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
3 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	8 THE PERFECT MAN 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 UNDISCOVERED 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	9 LAND OF THE DEAD 1:20 3:40 5:50 8:00 10:00
5 CORPSE BRIDE 12:00 1:50 3:50 5:50 7:50 9:50	10 DARK WATER 1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

ERMITA

536-7809 to 12

1 INTO THE BLUE 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	5 UNDISCOVERED 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
2 THE DESCENT 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	6 CORPSE BRIDE 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 WILD SIDE 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50	7 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50
4 TRANSPORTER 2 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50	

METRO EAST

682-8193 • 682-8199

1 BLADE OF THE ROSE 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15	5 THE PERFECT MAN 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
2 DARK WATER 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	6 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
3 THE PERFECT CATCH 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	7 TRANSPORTER 2 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:10
4 INTO THE BLUE 11:40 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30	8 LAND OF THE DEAD 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES

925-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 INTO THE BLUE	3 UNDISCOVERED
2 TRANSPORTER 2	4 THE DESCENT

CITISQUARE MALABON

288-2575

PIONEER

687-5378

1 INTO THE BLUE	1 INTO THE BLUE
2 THE CONSTANT GARDENER	2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 RESERVE	3 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
4 RESERVE	4 UNDISCOVERED

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1 THE CAVE	1 THE CAVE
2 THE PERFECT CATCH	2 DARK WATER
3 THE CONSTANT GARDENER	3 THE CROW 4
4 THE CROW 4	4 THE LONG WEEKEND

DASMARIÑAS

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ANGELES

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1 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	1 THE CAVE
2 SIX	2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 THE PERFECT CATCH	3 THE LONG WEEKEND
4 THE CONSTANT GARDENER	4 INTO THE BLUE

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1 LAND OF THE DEAD	1 DARK WATER
2 THE PERFECT CATCH	2 INTO THE BLUE
3 THE CONSTANT GARDENER	3 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
4 THE DESCENT	4 LAND OF THE DEAD
	5 A SOUND OF THUNDER
	6 BLADE OF THE ROSE

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1 THE CONSTANT GARDENER	1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 DARK WATER	2 THE PERFECT CATCH
3 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	3 DARK WATER
4 THE LONG WEEKEND	4 THE LONG WEEKEND
5 THE CAVE	5 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
6 ONE MISSED CALL	



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Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASEBALL: MLB NLDS Game Four, 8 a.m. (7-9:30 p.m.); ESPN - Check out this crucial playoff match in the NL.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL - Bengals vs Jaguars, 8:30 a.m.; STAR Sports - It's a battle of the cats when

Cincinnati takes on Jacksonville.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Japanese Grand Prix Race Day, 4:30 p.m. (7); STAR Sports - Take another look at the weekend race from Suzuka. Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS

Technical men to supervise Nat'l MY Games

TECHNICAL EXPERTS HAVE BEEN TAPPED by the organizing Manila Sports Council (Masco) to supervise competitions in the First Manila Youth Games (MY Games) National Invitational slated Oct. 23-30 at various sports venues throughout the Big City.

Masco chair Arnold "Ali" Atienza said that experts from various national sports associations and youth-oriented sports clubs will be handling the technical aspect of the games, the first-ever LGU-initiated national competition featuring the country's best athletes 17 years and younger.

"Competition alone is not the primary objective of the MY Games National," said the son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. "As important are the objectives of involving the youth in sports, making them enjoy what they do, and instilling in their minds the spirit of athletic competition."

The young Atienza said more than 40 cities, municipalities, and provinces have committed participation in the games, which has gained the backing of Pagcor, San Miguel Corp., Milo, Super Ferry, Speedo, IntraSports, and Concept Movers.

Erratic RP downs Myanmar



THE PHILIPPINES' Michelle Carolino punctures the Myanmar defense put up by Htike Htike Win (6) and Kyim (10).

By Marc Reyes

A FUMBLING PHILIPPINE team disposed of Myanmar, 25-14, 25-14, 25-17, last night at the start of the Shakey's Invitational volleyball championships at the Rizal Coliseum.

It was not the kind of game that could win the gold medal for the country in the Southeast Asian Games but it was enough to stop the Burmese side that was formed just six months ago.

In the second game, SEA Games perennial champion Thailand, bannered by four national players, drubbed Indonesia, 25-16, 25-23, 25-20.

The Filipinas committed more errors (23-21) and hardly showed the intensity of a squad brushing up for a projected gold medal encounter against SEAG heavyweight Thailand, whose core is seeing action here.

"I decided to give my other players a break af-

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
3 p.m.—Myanmar vs Thailand
5 p.m.—Indonesia vs Philippines

ter Myanmar looked ready to give up," said RP coach Ramil de Jesus.

The Filipinos groped for form in the first set when spikers Cherry Rose Macatangay and Michelle Carolino began pounding the Myanmar defense, only to watch the ball bounce back into the RP side.

The Filipinos could have ended the match way early on but they wasted three match-point opportunities in the face of Myanmar's solid stand.

At 24-14 in the third set, Dolly Peñaflorida, subbing for Roxanne Pimentel, caught the ball in her arms as Myanmar gained a new lease.

Macatangay then tried to put matters in her hands with a spike, but Htike Htike Win blocked it. The Adamson stalwart next hit it long.

Fed up with what was happening and conscious of the crowd's impatience, Macatangay again asked for a set-up from the left flank, took a small step backward, before ripping it straight to the Myanmar side that desperately tried to save it. The winning point finally silenced the crowd.

Prodigious Madrigal 3rd overall in Malaysian karting

LANGKAWI—PHILIPPINE KARTING PRODIGY Alessandra Madrigal bagged third overall honors at the end of the five-leg 2005 Plus Rotax Max Challenge at the Morac International Karting Circuit here recently.

The strong finish capped the successful stint of the young Madrigal, driving for Alessandra Racing Team Inc., in the Malaysian karting scene.

Two Sundays ago, she also took a podium finish in Round 3 of the Asian Karting Open Championship at the Shah Alam Kart Circuit in Selangor.



MADRIGAL

Madrigal could have finished second or first overall in the Plus Rotax Max Challenge had she not missed the first two rounds of the series due to race commitments in Thailand.

She made quite an impression when she finished third on her debut in Round 3 of the series last June 19 at the Speedzone Elite Track in Subangjaya, then wound up fourth in Round 4 on the same track on July 31.

Madrigal, who is backed up by ING Private Banking, Puma and Globe Gizmo together with

co-sponsors Dickies, Petron Ultron, Nissan Gallery and Ford Global City, was pressed by her Malaysian rivals led by Cadet champ Mohammed Hqmar Danial and Bryan Homi Mehta and Indonesia's Senna Sulaiman Noor.

Alessandra proved fastest in the final qualifying time trials with a best time of 1:13.001.

But her rivals proved more adept on the track on race day as Madrigal ended fifth in the 15-lap final race, checking in with 19:26.14 behind fourth placer Part Ghorpade of India.

BSP Governor's Cup golf today

THE GOVERNOR ARMANDO TETANGCO Invitational Cup Golf Tournament tees off at 7 a.m. today at the Ayala Greenfields Estates Golf Club in Calamba, Laguna.

Presented by the Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines (BMAP) and Prime Asia magazine, the tournament will be participated in by officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, BMAP members, representatives from the country's top financial institutions, media personalities and celebrity guests.

BSP Governor Armando Tetangco Jr. and other special guests will hit the ceremonial drive at 6:30 a.m.

Growee Hoops gets going

A TOP-FLIGHT PANEL OF INSTRUCTORS will be on hand when the Growee Hoops School begins at the first-class Ridgewood Park Basketball Court today in Lucena City.

The clinic, founded by former Philippine Basketball League commissioner Charlie Favis and PBA Best

Import Bobby Parks, gets under way at 9 a.m.

Photo at right shows participants during a recent Hoops Basketball clinic in Metro Manila. Growee Hoops is backed by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Spalding, Accel and Mossimo.



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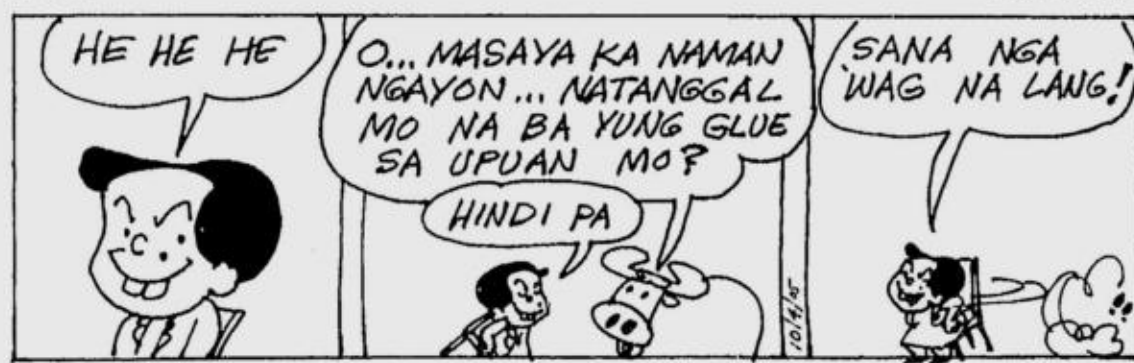
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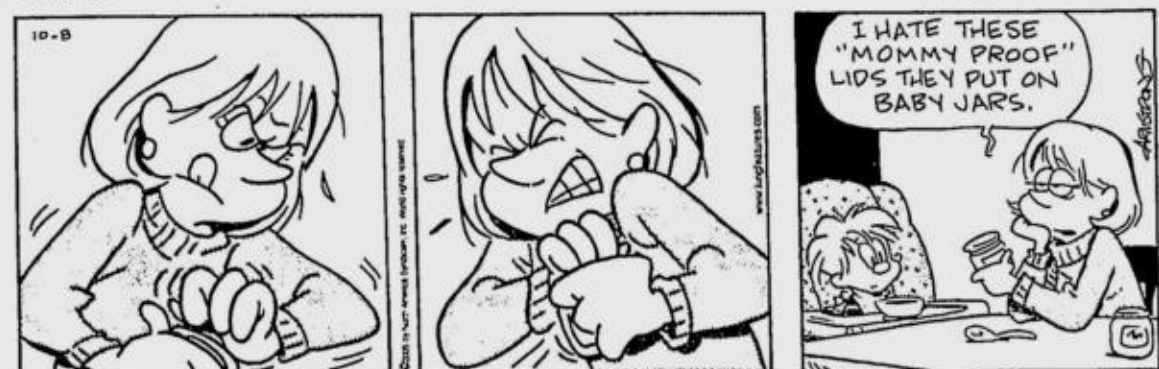
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND A. LIPIN



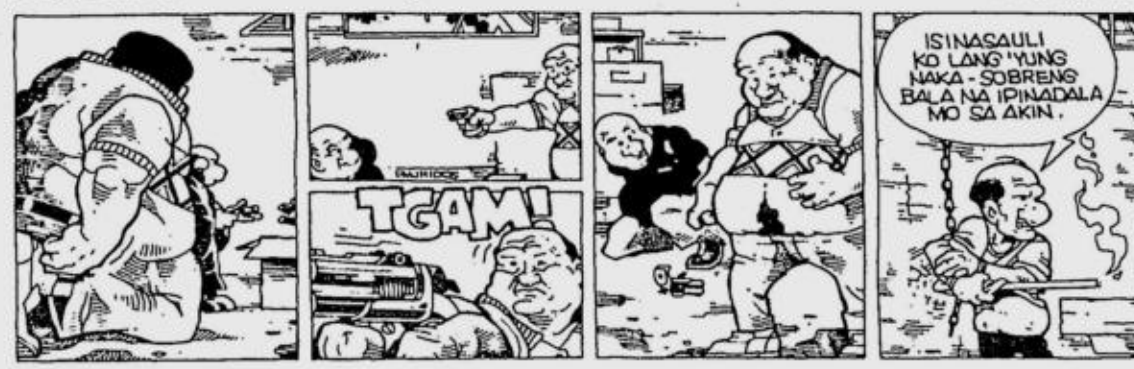
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR



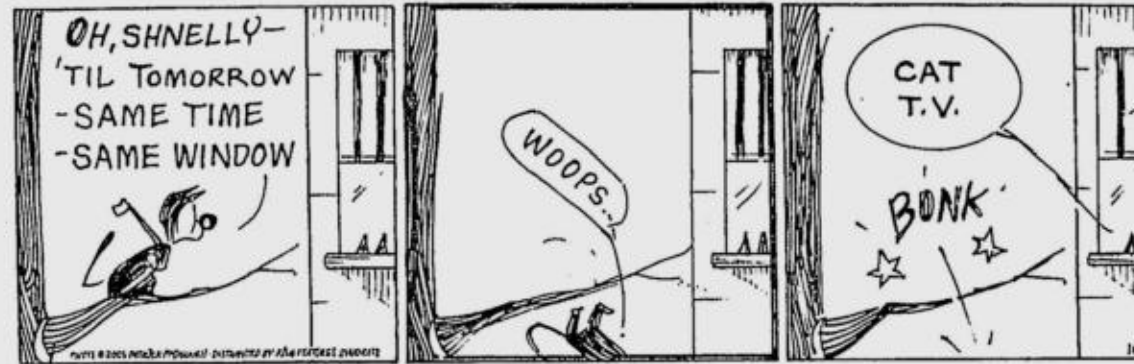
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



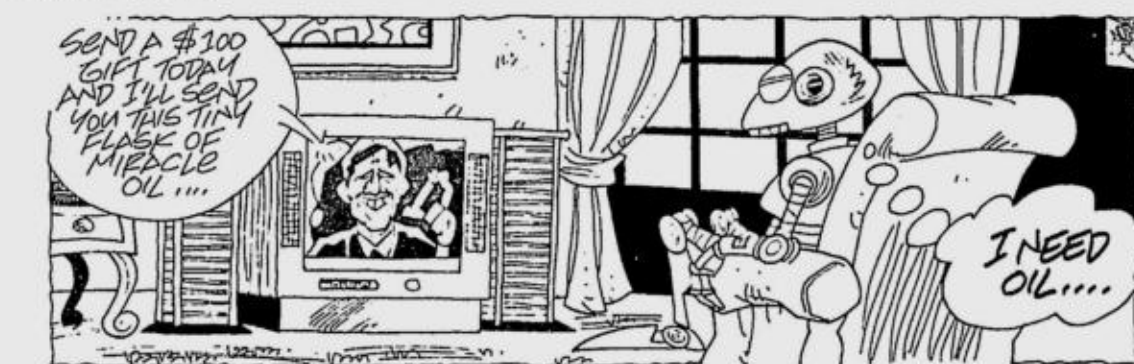
ATOMO AND WEBBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're competent in many areas. You're a curious combination of practicality and romance. You adore adventure; yet your feet are on the ground. Nevertheless, the thrill of excitement can seduce you. You're intelligent, and you understand how society works. Seek out some solitude this year in order to study or learn something valuable. Birthdate of: Stephanie Zimbalist, actress; Matt Damon, actor; Sigourney Weaver, actress.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're starting to think more and more about debt, taxes and shared possessions. There are a lot of loose details here you want to clean up. (Excellent!)



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You can now start to tackle all kinds of mental work on the job. Details will not deter you. You might find yourself thinking more about health issues and how to stop bad habits as well.



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Don't be surprised if memories from the past start to bubble to the surface of your mind now. This gives you a chance to see your childhood with an adult point of view.



TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today Mercury moves opposite your sign. This means the next two months are an excellent time to clarify issues with partners and close friends. Discuss any difficulties that you're worried about.



CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel playful! All kinds of mischievous ideas occur to you now. Games, puzzles, movies and sports will delight you in the next few months.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The tempo of your days will accelerate now. Expect frequent conversations with siblings and relatives. Respond to requests from others. Communications are important now!



LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You've got lots of money-making ideas. In the next few weeks, some of these ideas could generate more money for you. Be open to all kinds of opportunities related to business and commerce.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today Mercury moves into your sign. It's going to stay there until mid-December. This is wonderful news. You'll be chatty, bright, curious and articulate.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Plan to tackle special tasks in the next few months that require discipline and perseverance. You'll be surprised by how successful you'll be!



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): In the next few months, you'll be far more active with friends and groups. This is the time to formulate long-term plans and future goals.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Because Mercury is slowly moving across the top of your chart, you're out there talking to everyone! Bosses will be impressed with what you have to say in the next few months.



PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Travel, education, publishing, legal matters and medicine all absorb you now. You might even be dealing with foreign countries more than usual in the next few months. Stay alert!

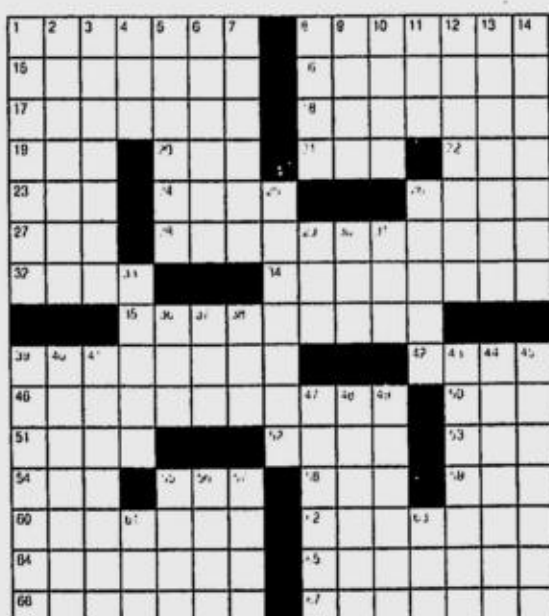
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Vine support
- 8 Mine vehicle
- 15 Scottish whitfish
- 16 Admonish
- 17 Man who made a Mexican purchase
- 18 Lacking zest
- 19 German city on the Danube
- 20 10 of dates
- 21 One of Curly's cohorts
- 22 Norm on the golf course
- 23 Worldwide workers' grp.
- 24 Asian ox
- 26 Goller Tom
- 27 Letters after MS or PC
- 28 Outward indications
- 32 Vocalist James
- 34 Engenders
- 35 Gambling party game
- 39 Concentrated substances
- 42 Dines
- 46 Paid an
- 48 Inquisitive visit
- 50 "William Wilson" writer
- 51 Conks out
- 52 River of Hamburg
- 53 Masseuse's milieu
- 54 Babble
- 55 Lemon or lime drink
- 58 Every last one
- 59 Corn holder
- 60 One at the wheel
- 62 Tapioca source
- 64 Kibbutznik, e.g.
- 65 French stars
- 66 Provide for
- 67 Leaseholders

DOWN

- 1 Viewers' magazine
- 2 Change the distribution
- 3 Last



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

10/8/05

Friday's Puzzle Solved



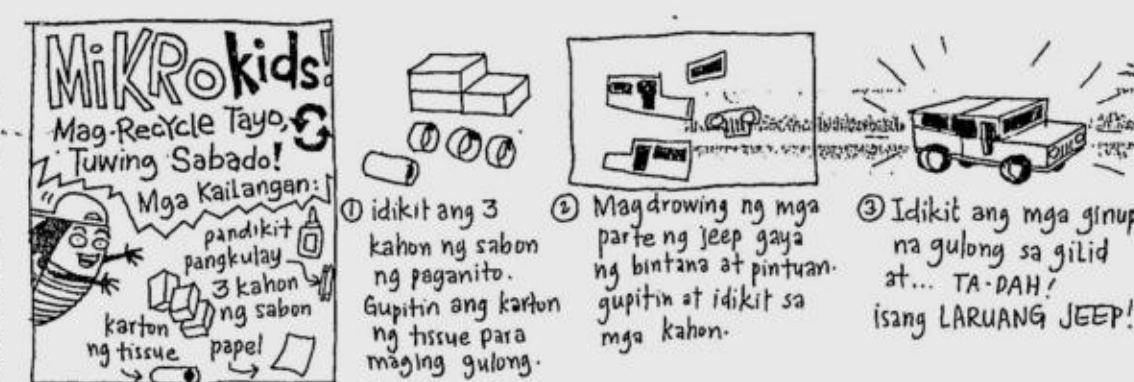
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10/8/05

- 4 Mormon church abbr.
- 5 Largest lake in Europe
- 6 Snow-covered peak
- 7 Made a parody of
- 8 Prune
- 9 Gambling mecca
- 10 Altar area
- 11 Med. scan
- 12 Thicket
- 13 Flew
- 14 Change clothing
- 25 Publish again
- 26 Leg joints
- 29 Also
- 30 Di's stat
- 31 Bowl-like shape
- 33 Baldwin and Guinness
- 36 Pen fill
- 37 Sure shot
- 38 Checkers slide
- 39 Molling
- 40 Acupressure massage
- 41 Explorers
- 43 Of higher-income consumers
- 44 Hollow muffin
- 45 Marine catch
- 47 Glacial deposit
- 48 Layman at the monastery
- 49 Willie or Ozzie
- 55 Neck of the woods
- 56 Hero shop
- 57 Moran of "Happy Days"
- 61 _ your heart out!
- 63 Convene

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING





MINA. Played a witch in pilot episode of GMA's new comedy-horror anthology show.

Awkward start for 'Kakabaka-Boo'

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN Joyce Bernal's "D' Another" scored a direct hit at the box office earlier this year, it served notice that the horror film craze launched by Chito Roño's "Feng Shui" a couple of years ago had taken a new turn: Chillers and thrillers remain popular, but

when they're combined with comedy, viewers like them even more.

Instructive

So, horror-comedies are currently "in," and therein lies an instructive tale: Today's viewers like to get scared because it's like they're "re-hearsing," in a manageable (because fictional) situation, for contemporary life's real terrors. And comedy is most welcome because it provides a lighthearted way out of the stress and tension that both films and life subject us to.

Quick to latch onto a good thing, television has also been trotting out its own horror-comedy productions. The latest, GMA-7's "Kakabaka-Boo!" debuted last Saturday, after "Ang Mahiwagang Baul."

Doll emcee

We caught its pilot episode, which was introduced by the new show's "host," the Chaka Doll. The idea of having a doll emcee a TV program initially sounds cute, but Chaka turned out to be so basic and immobile that the fun quickly flew out of the window.

The pilot episode itself wasn't much livelier, sad

to say. It was set in a weird toy "factory" run by three witchy, bitchy sisters who lured children into their establishment to turn them into living toys.

The three witches were shrilly played by Ara Mina, Alicia Mayer and Sherilyn Reyes, and their voices and antics were so hyper that we had to keep the volume of our TV set really low.

They must have been acting so "over" to boost the production's thin storyline, but their shrill performances only added insult to injury.

The child actors in the episode weren't as loud, thank goodness, but they were too self-conscious and favored *prima* to natural acting.

The episode was occasionally enlivened by some visual trickery, but not entertainingly enough to significantly mitigate its stultifying effect on viewers.

Flaws

As for the horror and comedy, there was little of either element in evidence, as the episode's flaws ultimately held sway.

We trust that the show's production team has learned something from this awkward start, and will come up with better and more truly entertaining episodes in the future.

Keep the creativity up, and the volume down, folks!

Managing finances

ONCE AGAIN, Francisco J. Colayco shares his insights about financial management in his new book, "Making Your Money Work: Pera Mo, Palaguin Mo! 2"

Fresh from receiving the 2004 National Book Award in the business and economics category, Colayco takes an active stance as he offers his readers the basics that they need to know to make their money grow.

Generosity

Sharing his knowledge is Colayco's way to show his gratitude. "I am the result of peo-

ple's generosity," he says as he looks back at the difficult years, when his widowed mother, Clemencia, a college professor at the University of Sto. Tomas, had to tend to her brood of seven when her guerilla-husband, Manuel Sr., was felled by enemy bullets during

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

World War II. "I have had my share of ups and downs. My experience is no different from those of others," Colayco explains.

His realization of what clicks and what doesn't made him decide to share with others what

MANAGING/A2-4

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SATURDAY Special

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Ashton and Demi prove naysayers wrong

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN ASHTON KUTCHER AND DEMI Moore started going out on dates together, people viewed their May-December romance with benevolent indulgence. They'd get over their trans-generational passion for each other soon enough, or so they thought, and go back to dating people closer to their respective ages.

Recently, however, the couple threw most everybody for a loop by deciding to get married. The fling had become a permanent commitment, *contra mundum*. Yellow journalists, do your worst!

What's going on here? Beyond the tabloid feeding frenzy and the shock waves, two people with more than a decade between them in age (advantage, woman) had opted to jump onto the marriage-go-round—for keeps. It must be love!

Dire consequences

Not that "concerned" people hadn't warned them of the dire consequences of their unique union: "When Ashton is 30, Demi would be approaching 50. When he's 40, she'll be an old woman of almost 60!" And, when he's 50? Don't even ask (shudder).

Those fretful members of the global peanut gallery forget, of course, what other trendsetters and social analysts have been saying: "40

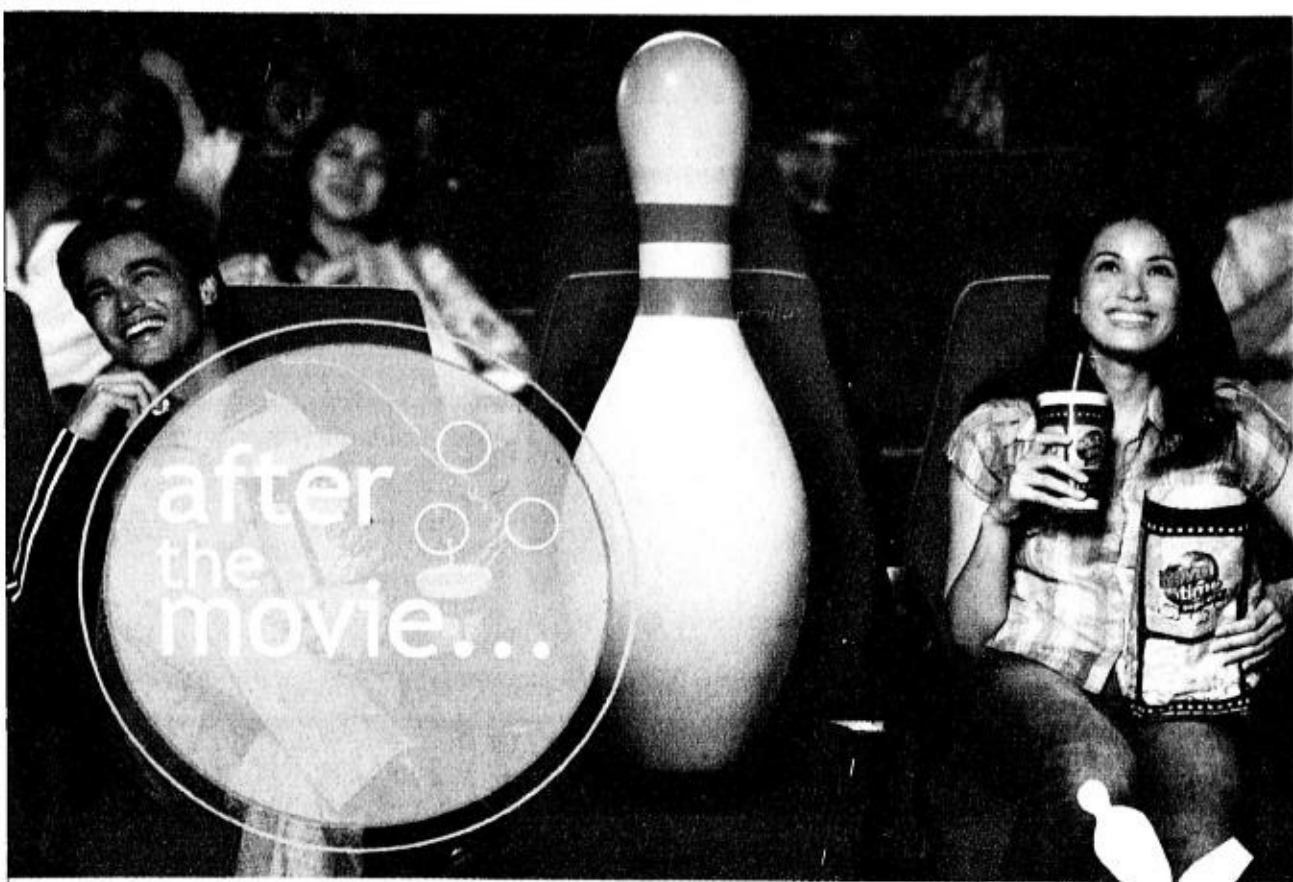


MOORE AND KUTCHER. It must be love!

is the new 20." "With all of the help from plastic surgery and healthy living now available, you don't have to look old until you're in your 70s." And, at fortysomething, Demi Moore is a long way from that!

In fact, when she made her comeback in a wee bikini in "Charlie's Angels 2," Demi was astoundingly buff, trim and tanned, and could give women in their 20s a run for their T-backs. Yes, she sort of looked stringy in

ASHTON/A3-3



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ALVAREZ AND SEÑA. Brilliant theater couple performs at Merk's.

'Hawking' on the Hallmark Channel

PROFESSOR STEPHEN HAWKING HAS INSPIRED many people with his impressive achievements despite his severe disabilities. People who admire him shouldn't miss "Hawking," the Hallmark Channel's tribute to the esteemed cosmologist at 9 p.m. tomorrow.

For the first time onscreen, the film tells the story of Hawking's early years. In 1963, the 21-year-old Hawking stood in a consulting room of the St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London, listening to the carefully chosen

words of a senior neurologist. In two years, the doctor said, Stephen would be dead.

MONTAGE

"Hawking" is the account of the author of the international best-seller, "A Brief History of Time," and his battle with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) or motor neuron disease, and his triumph over the debilitating illness—as proven by his groundbreaking discovery that contributed to the Nobel Prize of 1978.

Another inspirational production on Hallmark this month is "The Freediver," at 9 p.m. on Oct. 16. In the movie, a talented young woman is plucked from obscurity and brought to the idyllic island of Spetses, where she is trained to become the undisputed freediving champion of the world.

The film is based on the tragic story of Danai Varveri, played by Camilla Rutherford. She falls in love with her trainer (Alki David), but blindly trusts the unscrupulous doctor who runs the program—who, despite his knowledge of Danai's heart illness, pushes her beyond her limits.

Other series highlights on Hallmark this month: "ReGenesis" (Mondays at 10:35 p.m.), "The Agency II" (Tuesdays at 10:35 p.m.), "Strong Medicine 3" (Wednesdays at 10:35 p.m.), "Judging Amy 3" (Thursdays at 10:35 p.m.), "Wife Swap 2" (Fridays at 10:35 p.m.), and "The Nanny" (M-F at 2 and 6:30 p.m.).

Thursdays with Robert and Isay

Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez, the brilliant theater couple from "Miss Saigon," light up Merk's on Thursday nights until Oct. 27, with their unique show, "Love You, Hate You, Love You."

Seña was The Engineer in "Miss Saigon" in London and Stuttgart, while Isay originated the key role of Gigi. Call 757-4720, 0917 824-1465, 0917 801-4450, or visit www.merks-barbistro.com.

On Nickelodeon

Last Oct. 2, Nickelodeon's music show, "1-2-3," began its second season. Starting today, every weekend brings new episodes of "Chalkzone." Catch Rudy Tabootie in action as he whips up some amazing chalk doodles.

For a hair-raising Halloween, Oct. 22 and 23 bring two hours of "Creepy Teachers Marathon." Oct. 29 and 31, Nick throws a "Ghoulsie Party." And don't miss the premiere of Danny Phantom's "Fright Night" on Oct. 31.

'Art Is Kool'

At 10 a.m. today on ABC-5, "Art Is Kool" host Kuya Jomike creates robots from old boxes and colored-paper scraps.

On Animal Planet

At 5 p.m. today, catch "The Temple of the Tigers Revisited" at 5 p.m., and "The Temple of the Tigers" at 5:30 p.m. "Temple of the Tigers" won platinum at the Aurora Awards, and gold at the Omni Intermedia Awards.

Karylle in Davao

Karylle's "You Make Me Sing" mall tour takes her to SM Davao today for a free show at 5 p.m.

Sugarfree

Sugarfree performs tonight at R&B Music 'HAWKING'/A3-3

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- Philippine Digital Film Panorama
- Young Cinema Night
- Awards Night
- Raymond Red Retrospective
- Korean Cinema Focus
(Tribute to Kim Dong Ho and the Pusan International Film Festival)
- Nordic Lights Program
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- International Night
- Mayor's Day
- 2nd Boracay Co-Production Meeting

Cinemanila astig, Cinemanila orig.
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Hidden Blade by YOJI YAMADA

Palm D'Or Award
Cannes 2005



The Child
by JEAN-PIERRE & LUC DARDENNE

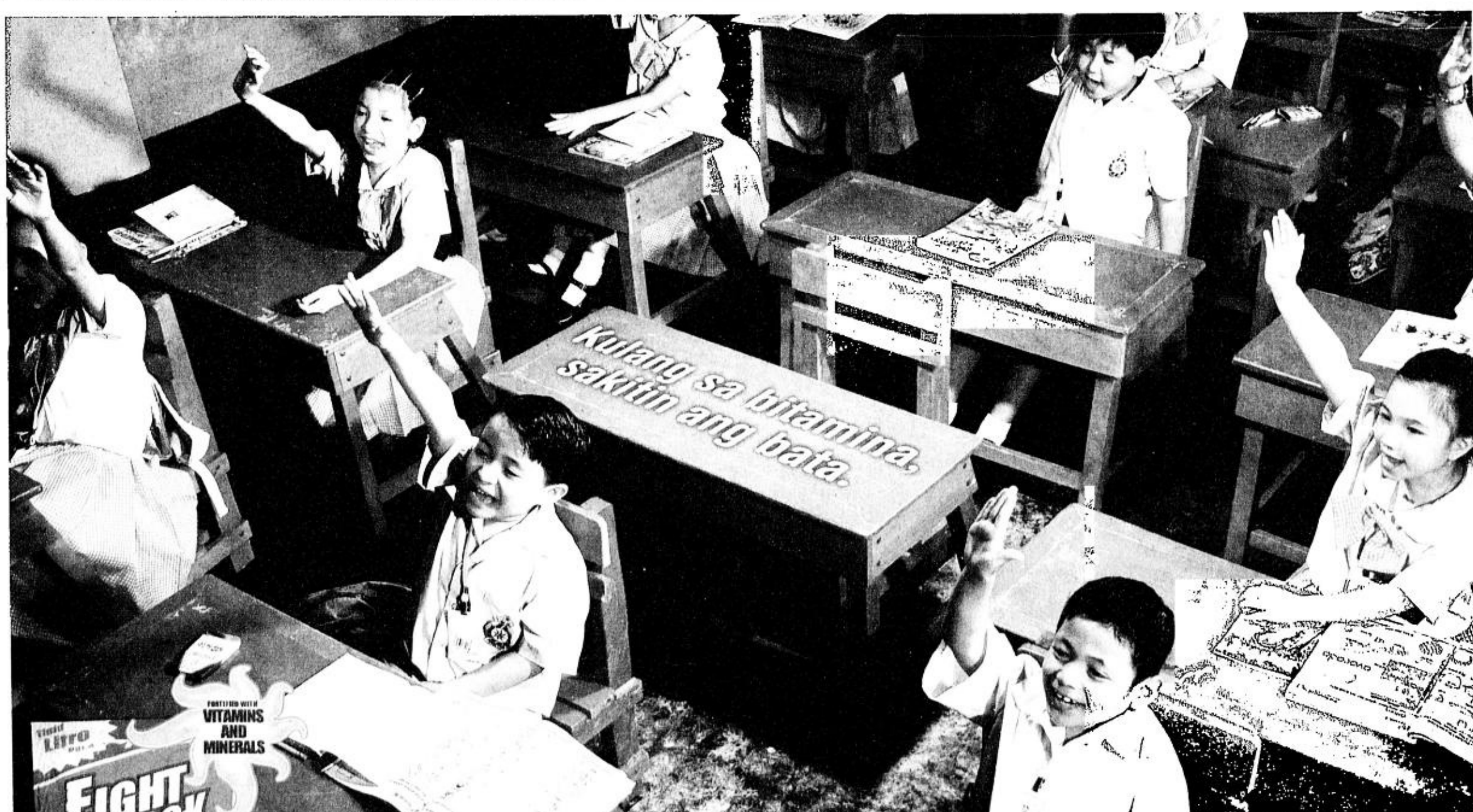


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Magandang Araw-Araw.

Bright, vibrant sound in New Wave anthology

By Noelani Torre

MOST OF THE BANDS FEATURED in "New Wave Essentials" are either inactive or defunct. They have been so for quite some time, too, which is why your typical radio listener will probably look blank when you mention the Wild Swans, the Mighty Lemon Drops or Strawberry Switchblade.

If you're a new wave fan, however, then you'll no doubt be familiar with these delicious-sounding groups, as well as with the 14 other bands in this anthology.

For those who don't know what new wave is, a short background could be in order:

Punk rock scene

According to the incredibly helpful Wikipedia, it's a term "most commonly associated with a movement in American, Australian, British, Canadian and European popular music, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, growing out of the New York City punk rock scene, itself centered around the club CBGB."

Interestingly enough, it also has something to do with the French new wave cinema of the '60s. Sire Records head Seymour Stein felt that the music of the



NEW ORDER. The group's music was a reaction against the pop music of the '70s.

new artists he was trying to market was "the aural equivalent" of the film movement, inasmuch as the bands were likewise "anti-corporate, experimental, and a generation that had grown up as critical consumers of the art they now practiced."

New wave, in short, was first conceived as a more "artistic" kind of punk rock, and started out as a reaction against the pop music of the '70s.

New wave has a lot of subgenres—new romantic, gothic rock, synth pop, jangle pop—a good number of which are represented in "New Wave Essentials." Album opener the Wild Swans, for exam-

ple, is often described as guitar pop, and they're followed by the slightly New Romantic-ish Lotus Eaters, who are, in turn, followed by the post-punk Echo & the Bunnymen.

For those who were already around when new wave was born, listening to the CD will no doubt be a trip down memory lane. And though they may have looked like the worst fashion experiments of the '80s, their music is the kind that today's new and fashionable pop groups don't have a hope in creating.

They made the kind of pop music that we no longer hear these days—fresh, innovative, and heartfelt. We call those songs

classics, but they remain as bright and vibrant as when they first hit the airwaves.

Obscure

As mentioned earlier, most of the bands in the album have either become obscure or defunct. The Wild Swans made their last record 15 years ago, Aztec Camera's last album came out in '93, and the Lotus Eaters haven't had an album since 1998. Only Echo & the Bunnymen, New Order, the Chameleons UK, the Call, and Sisters of Mercy remain active.

Despite many of these bands' defunct status, however, you can't call their music that.

FASHION MUST HAVE "DISNEY COLLECTION BY GIORDANO" COMES TO THE PHILIPPINES

WALT DISNEY ASIA PACIFIC and GIORDANO have collaborated in designing and developing a popular new line of fashion tees called "DISNEY COLLECTION BY GIORDANO" now available in the Philippines.

The Philippines launch is the third Asia Pacific market where the fashion range has been released with great success. Hongkong and China launched in July, followed by Taiwan, Singapore, and Malaysia in August. Korea and Australia will launch at the same time as the Philippines. In order to keep the range and choice fresh and exciting for consumers, Giordano will roll out new prints and designs every four weeks.

The region-wide product license agreement grants Giordano the license to design, manufacture and market T-shirts and sweatshirts featuring popular Disney characters. Design feature the full range of Disney characters including the ever popular characters of Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Winnie the Pooh and Friends, Disney princesses such as Cinderella, and Snow White, classic characters like Bambi and Pinocchio, and Pixar movie favorites from Toy Story, Finding Nemo and The Incredibles.

Mr. Raymond T. Miranda, Manager Director Walt Disney International - Southeast Asia expressed his enthusiasm with the project. "We are delighted to be able to work hand-in-hand with Giordano, an international lifestyle apparel company renowned for the quality and comfort of its products. Together, we have combined Giordano's expertise and a touch of Disney Magic to produce a brand new Disney Tee Collection, which will be launched in 12 countries in the Asia Pacific region. Most importantly, this collection represents an alliance that is extremely valuable to both brands, and we have high hopes for long term development."

Mr. Peter Lau, Chairman and Chief Executive of Giordano International Limited shared the same view. "The reason why we are so excited about the deal is be-

cause the two companies have so much in common. We are both about quality, innovation, fun and family. Through continuous innovation and renewal, Disney has forged deep and enduring connections with people of all ages worldwide. Compared to Disney, Giordano is just the new kid on the block, having been around for only 24 years. But by focusing on the same four values of quality, innovation, fun and family, we have also established strong ties with our customers. This partnership will allow us to bring greater joy and excitement to consumers everywhere in the region. We had a really great time working with Disney to develop the line, and we are excited with the results. We are confident that this is only the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship.

Giordano is a leading international retailer of men's, women's and children's apparel. Established in 1981, Giordano operates over 1,500 stores and counters in over 30 markets in Asia, Australia and the Middle East.

The Walt Disney Company

The Walt Disney Company together with its subsidiaries and affiliates is a leading diversified international family entertainment and media enterprise with four business segments: media networks, parks and resorts, studio entertainment and consumer products. Disney is a Dow 30 company, had annual revenues exceeding US\$30 billion in its recent fiscal year, and a market capitalization of more than US\$52 billion as of August 19, 2005.

About Disney Consumer Products

Disney Consumer Products (DCP) is the business segment of The Walt Disney Company (DIS) that extends the Disney brand to merchandise ranging from apparel, toys, home décor and books to interactive games, food and beverages, electronics and animation art. This is accomplished through the work of DCP's various lines of business: Disney Toys, Disney Softlines, Disney Hardlines, Disney Publishing, Buena Vista Games and Baby Einstein. The Disney Store, which debuted in 1987, also falls under DCP, through stores currently owned and operated by unaffiliated third parties under licensing agreements in North America and Japan, and wholly owned by Disney in Europe.

Animated films deftly fuse comedy and tragedy

By Behn Cervantes

"WHEN YOU LAUGH, THE whole world laughs with you. When you weep, you weep alone." Because I'm moody, my mother once gifted me with a poster which carried that warning.

My earliest memories were of Liberation, so a streak of tragedy is inherently a part of me. But, because of my family's keen sense of the absurd, comedy is also part and parcel of my melodramatic tendencies.

As a child, I loved watching cartoons—from Road Runner to Bugs Bunny. But, when I discovered Walt Disney's beloved characters, my preference changed forever.

Appealing

I loved "Fantasia" because it deftly meshed comedy and tragedy, and made them appealing to children and adults. I was intrigued by this combination of disparate emotions and preferred them over "Cinderella" and "Sleeping Beauty."

I like the tragedy depicted in cartoons. If I were to cite some of the most touching scenes in films, I would have to include the death of Bambi's mother in that climatic fire scene. It made me experience "real" loss—and I quietly wept. When my own mother passed away, I re-experienced that trauma.

Bambi altered my taste in cartoons. Thereafter, I would compare other animated films to "Bambi's" fine points. Walt Disney's innovative artists had wonderfully blended human and animal traits—and



MICKEY MOUSE. Topbilled Walt Disney's "Fantasia."

children related to his cinematic creatures with love.

Love stories

I also liked cartoons that dealt with nature. The saccharine love stories of Snow White and Sleeping Beauty couldn't hold my attention—except for their fantasy and music.

In "Shark's Tale," which I enjoyed, all kinds of maritime denizens were endowed with human traits. The "humanization" of creatures via the versatile voices of actors like Will Smith, Robert de Niro and Martin Scorsese gave the film spunk and irony. But, the humor was so current that I wondered how it would stand the test of time.

On the other hand, "Ice Age" and "Dinosaur" had the same appeal. In fact, I enjoyed the latter more than I did "Jurassic Park."

"Animation" gave them the needed distance, unlike the gargantuan monsters in Steven Spielberg's film, which were too beastly and in-your-face.

Ashton and Demi . . . From page A3-1

spots, but she definitely wasn't over the hill. No wonder the much younger Ashton took one look at her and dumped his nymphet girlfriends!

Young men have always been fascinated with older women because they exude wisdom and experience, and thus could teach them a thing or two in the romance department.

Beguiling combination

Do they also offer a beguiling combination of lover and mother? Well, what's wrong with that?—As long as the guy knows where one persona ends and the other begins!

We think, however, that Ashton and Demi decided to tie the knot because they loved each other despite their age difference—and they could even laugh about it!

On a recent telecast of "Saturday Night Live" that Ashton hosted, Demi made a surprising guest appearance in the opening skit—as a really old woman, with wattles, even, and hobbling around like she was two weeks away from the memorial park. Despite her truly geriatric appearance, Ashton was still passionate with her, even cupping one of her (prophetically sagging) breasts!

Thus did the May-December couple laughingly thumb their noses at all of the *usis* out there who had predicted such a "sad" portent of things to come, 20 years hence.

In gleefully laughing at themselves and their future prospects, the "mismatched" stellar couple proved all such dire prognostications wrong—and the joke's on us!

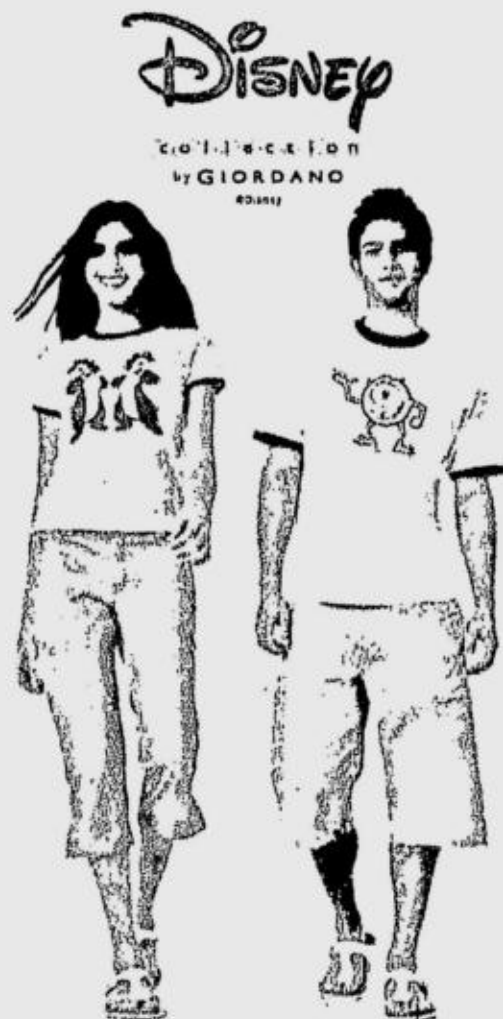
'Hawking' . . . From page A3-2

Venue in Tarlac City on the fourth leg of "Road Rocks Winston on Tour 2005."

Movies on TV

On HBO, Oct. 8 at 8 a.m., "A Mighty Wind." Oct. 9 at 7:35

a.m., "Everyday People." On Cinemax, Oct. 8 at 1 p.m., "Empire of the Sun." 7:15 p.m., "Anger Management." Oct. 9 at 8 a.m., "Fool for Love." 11:30 a.m., "Fierce Creatures." 1:15 p.m., "Unforgiven."



Brains at Work

Oct. 8-15

See the latest learning innovations at this Toys & Tales Expo.

Chicco Lifestyle

Oct. 8

Try out Chicco's newest products at this fun exhibit!

Fisher Price Baby Lab

Oct. 9 • 3 pm

Play and learn with Fisher Price at this parent and baby interactive display.

Barbie Fashion Fever Fab 4 Grand Finals

Oct. 15 • 3 pm

Catch the fashion fever at Barbie's latest fashion show!

What Girls are Lovin'

Oct. 16 • 3 pm

Check out the latest fads little girls are sure to love!

Kids Badminton

Oct. 16 • 3 pm

Cheer for kiddie badminton wonders in this mini-tourney.

Great Whack of Fun

Oct. 17-22

Play basketball, volleyball, wall climbing, golf, taekwondo and billiards!

Mad Science Show

Oct. 22-23 • 3 pm

Be awed by the fire & ice and the up, up & away science shows.

Petstival Festival

Oct. 23-30

Take a look at the latest in pet food and accessories.

Fur & Feathers Fashion Show

Oct. 30 • 2 pm

It's rainin' cats & dogs, so slip into sassy fashions for you and for your pet. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-483, series of 2005.

Hights of Fantasy

Oct. 31 • 1 pm

Dress up in your favorite Halloween costume and win prizes! Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-484, series of 2005.

"Lahat Bee-da, Lahat Bee-dance" with Jollibee!

Nov. 5 • 10 am

Enjoy a day of fun & games with Jollibee Kiddie Club and surprise GMA talents!

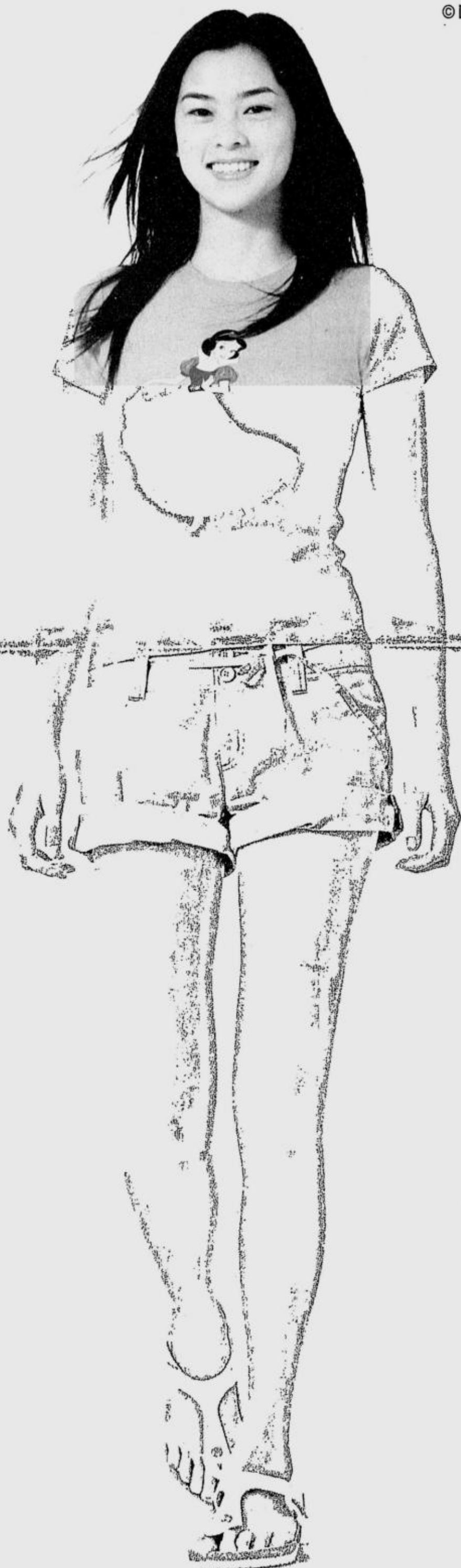


Disney

c o l l e c t i o n

by GIORDANO

©Disney



GLORIETTA MALL, Ayala Center • SM MEGAMALL (Mega A) • SM MEGAMALL (Mega B) • SM CITY NORTH EDSA • SM CITY ANNEX • SM SOUTHMALL
SM CITY BAGUIO • SM CITY DAVAO • FESTIVAL SUPERMALL • SM CITY CEBU • AYALA CENTER CEBU • THE PODIUM • AYALA TOWN CENTER • SM MANILA
SM PAMPANGA • ROCKWELL • SM CENTERPOINT • ROBINSON'S PLACE MANILA • ROBINSON'S GALLERIA • SHOPPESVILLE, Greenhills

WHAT'S INSIDE

PLDT to reduce debts by \$72M /B2
RP rice yield seen to go up /B8
So, who's afraid of new IC chief? /B3

BUSINESS

Text us your feedback: Inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Forex reserves hit all-time high of \$18.59B

But 'hot money' inflow slowed down in Sept.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S GROSS INTERNATIONAL reserves (GIR) hit an all-time high of \$18.59 billion in end-September, shored up by proceeds from the government's latest \$1-billion global bond offering.

However, net foreign investments in local stocks and bonds—also known as portfolio inflows—shrank to \$37.8 million for the month of September from \$63.9 million in August as the tightening of interest rates by the US Federal Reserve made offshore investments more attractive.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amador Tetangco Jr. yesterday announced that the end-September GIR was 3.6 percent higher than the \$17.94-billion level as of end-August.

Aside from the proceeds of the recent bond float, he said the GIR was also boosted by the BSP's foreign exchange operations and income from investments abroad.

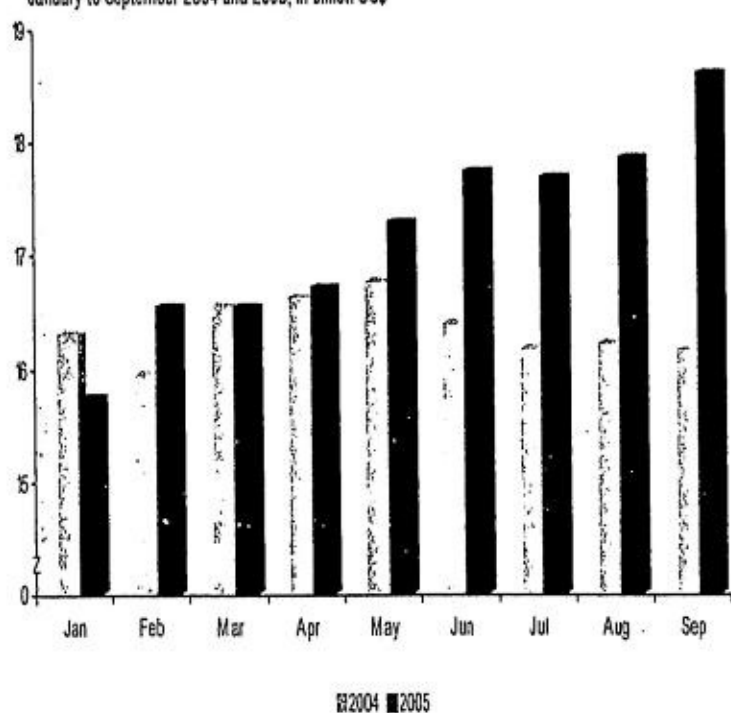
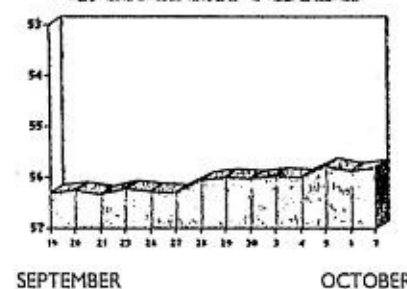
"The (national government) borrowing will be used to cover the government's foreign exchange requirements this year," Tetangco said.

"The inflows, however, were partly offset by payments of maturing foreign exchange obligations of the government and the Bangko Sentral," he said.

The GIR—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments—is an indicator of the country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy for importation and debt servicing activities.

The BSP also dips into its reserves to supply dollars to the spot foreign exchange market whenever there is a need to quell speculative attacks against the local currency. A large GIR

FOREX/B2

GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES
January to September 2004 and 2005, in billion US\$INDICATORS
CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.805 = \$ 1

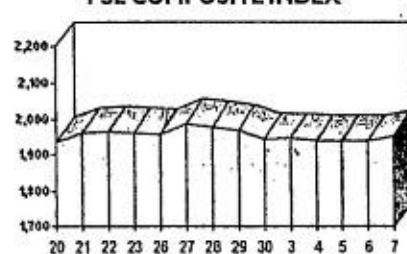
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 7, 2005

Y 113.50 = \$ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 7, 2005

GOLD: \$472.00-472.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 7, 2005

STOCK MARKET
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares rise on foreign buying

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.67 percent higher yesterday as foreign investors sought out high yielding stocks or those likely to report robust earnings for the three months to September, dealers said.

They said trading volume was thin however ahead of the weekend.

SHARES/B2

Benguet taps Citigroup as adviser for Kingking project

By Christine A. Gaylican

MINING FIRM BENGUET CORP. HAS selected Citigroup Financial as its adviser in raising some \$500 million in additional capital to develop its Kingking gold project in Compostela Valley in Mindanao.

This was disclosed by Benguet Corp. and joint-venture partner Nationwide Development Corp. (Nadecor) to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

"This is the best time to develop the Kingking gold project as the demand

from the economies of Japan, China and Korea is on the high side. Both partners were approached by different groups in developing this project and to secure the most beneficial arrangement we have engaged the services of Citigroup," Benguet Corp. president Philip Benjamin Romualdez said in the disclosure.

Earlier, Romualdez announced that the partners were in talks with 40 foreign mining companies to raise capital for a copper and gold project in Compostela Valley, Davao, with target date

to start operations set next year.

Romualdez said that the joint venture, which requires an estimated \$500 million to begin mineral extraction in the site, would choose a partner until the middle of next year to develop the Kingking copper-gold project.

Romualdez said the investment would be a combination of equity and project financing, which Citigroup would evaluate in the coming months.

Based on records of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, the Kingking project has a total mineral deposit of 353

million metric tons of gold, copper and silver with a gross value of \$3.9 billion.

It has an estimated daily production rate of 70,000 MT, which could last for around 13 years.

While the same records showed that potential gross sales would reach \$285 million a year, potential income taxes generated for the government would be worth \$20.6 million annually.

Besides employing 1,000 workers during construction and 500 during mining operations, it is expected to indirectly employ around 2,500 workers.

ONE DAY, YOU'LL WANT TO PASS ON
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Call the doctor very slick

RECENTLY, MAKATI MEDICAL Center bought some hi-tech equipment to get rid of the spouse of the boss.

Oops, I mean, the equipment can do away with the most compelling reason of the spouse of the boss to always leave for the United States, such as once every full moon.

And that is, of course, not just shopping, but also the needed medical "check up."

But now "Makati Med," as the hospital is known to my generation, just got a GE brand of the 64-slice CT scanner.

Of course, it's a name that everybody can immediately recognize to have been lifted from a top-secret nuclear weapon code.

LET'S just say that the equipment is so modern, it must have a really weird name.

For now, just take comfort in the fact that the equipment can be good for our economy, because it can help preserve a good chunk of our precious dollars.

It's the money that the rich—such as the boss' spouse, mother-in-law, and the whole family, together with the yaya—normally spends for "check-ups" in advanced medical institutes in the United States, such as Disneyland.

Really, since they have money, they can always afford to go to the United States for some life-saving medical procedures for cough and cold.

After all, who should do the procedures there but Filipino doctors, assisted by Filipino nurses, with all the analyses

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

done by Filipino med-techs and Filipino computer technicians?

Yet here we are, our struggling Department of Tourism trying to promote this so-called medical tourism for our country in these parts of the globe.

As a matter of fact, people from around the region come to the Philippines for medical treatment, such as those from Palau, Guam, Asean, or even Cebu (which thinks it is not part of the Philippines).

I think the DOT should promote it among the rich instead. And that's where Makati Med should come in.

Look, boss, we can already do it here.

Hey, it's much cheaper here, okay!

MANY of us are probably still clueless about the modern equipment that a couple of our big hospitals have been acquiring lately.

Within the elite group of those modern hospitals, therefore, they are caught in this contest over which of them wins the public perception for having the most advance facilities.

Proof: All those hospital ads! Not just billboards, mind you! Even full-page newspaper ads! Some slick messages from your friendly doctor!

It used to be unethical for hos-

pitals to toot their own horns. But the problem was, nobody knew that our big modern hospitals spent millions of dollars for modern equipment.

The spouse of the boss still went abroad. This was the reason for the ads.

Unfortunately, ads can never say everything about the product. Take corned beef. The ads do not say that canned goods have enough chemical preservatives to get you mummified in your sleep.

HOW accurate the ads of those hospitals are, anyway, the public has no way of checking, whether the rich and the healthy, or the poor and the sick.

This hospital claims to have a cancer unit, and that one has a stroke center, and still another has... well, ample parking space.

The ads talk only about the equipment or the facilities, unfortunately, but never about the people manning them.

More often than not, therefore, we rely on word of mouth for our information on which doctor is the best.

It's just like the formula car race. Everybody may have Ferraris, but only one of them can have that Schumacher guy for its driver.

Here's a tip, just in case you or a loved one may need one: Consider the career record of the doctors behind those much-publicized modern equipment.

And don't share this with the boss' spouse, okay!

TAKE for instance that 64-slice CT scanner of Makati Med.

Actually, "CT" stands for "com-

puted tomography," which is nothing but a hi-tech x-ray machine that can show the doctors any of your body organs to the smallest details—and clearly.

The beauty of it all is that the procedure is what's known in medicine as "non-invasive." They don't put anything inside your body—no wires and dyes, and, certainly no nails. They don't open you up.

And those "64 slices" mean that the machine can take pictures of your heart so fast and close together, it's as if your heart is not moving. And we all know that the human heart is moving constantly—unlike, say, the human brain.

Anything wrong with your heart, such as a clogged artery, the machine can show in just a few seconds.

That's what Makati Med's 64-slice CT scanner can do. There are more than 400 of the GE brand in use all over the world, as against the Toshiba brand, which has about 120 units.

As for the driver, *este*, the doctor behind it, Makati Med's Computerized Imaging Institute, or CII, boasts of this US-educated, hitech-equipment-pioneering doctor named Benjamin Adapon.

He is one of those "balik scientists," having come back to the Philippines 25 years ago to pioneer the use of CT scanners, and other hi-tech equipment here.

It is, in other words, an impressive record, including 35 original scientific papers he wrote in the United States.

But don't take my word for it. Look at his record. By the way, don't show it to the boss' spouse.

PLDT to reduce debts by \$72M

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE Telephone Co. has offered to pay some \$72 million in debts ahead of the 2007 due date.

The telecommunications leader has also asked creditors to amend some debt provisions to allow it to increase dividends to common shareholders and restrict it from incurring any new borrowings.

Pre-paying a portion of its debts will allow PLDT to save on interest charges and minimize foreign exchange risks.

By the end of the year, PLDT would have settled more than \$672 million in debts, exceeding its target of cutting debt by \$600 million.

PLDT treasurer and senior vice president Annebelle Chua said the company would use internal funds to pay bondholders who would join the buyback plan.

She does not expect all holders of PLDT's 2007 debt papers to sell their bonds even as she insisted that the company would pay an "attractive" premium to buy back the bonds due in two years.

PLDT's offer to purchase 2007 notes will expire at 5 p.m., New York time on Nov. 4.

Holders of the notes will receive \$1,097.50 for every \$1,000 in bonds.

Of the \$600 million in debts to be settled this year, \$68 million would be executed in the last quarter.

Chua said the buyback of 2007 debts was not in the schedule. The telecom giant wanted to cut debts of the group to about \$1 billion by the end of 2006 from a peak of about \$3 billion five years ago.

The company said it had reduced debts since it issued the 2007 and 2012 bonds, using its cash flow from operations and the dividends of unit Smart Communications Inc.

To further demonstrate its resolve to accelerate debt reduction, PLDT had asked holders of its 2012 bonds to amend two portions of the debt covenant.

One would be to change the basis for computing the dividends from net income to cash flow.

Such change, she said, would allow PLDT to increase its dividends to common shareholders.

For the first time since April 2001, PLDT started paying dividends to common shareholders last May.

The telecom giant assured shareholders that it would increase dividends in the coming years.

The second amendment involves reducing PLDT's permitted leverage ratio, which would leave the company with no room to incur new borrowings.

"What we are saying now is that we have no intention to borrow and they might as well tighten the ratios," said Chua.

Forex reserves . . . From page B1

build-up thus provides a psychological support for the peso by improving the BSP's war chest at the foreign exchange market.

The end-September GIR was adequate to cover about 4.1 months of imports of goods and payments of services and income. It was also equivalent to 3.1 times the country's short-term debt based on original maturity. Short-term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding short-term external debt on original maturity plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

Meanwhile, foreign portfolio inflows to the country from January to September this year hit \$2.03 billion, dwarfing the \$206 million in the same period last year.

Portfolio inflows were strongest in the first four months of the year, hitting \$543.5 million in January, \$333.9 million in February, \$562.1 million in March and \$279.8 million in April.

By May, however, net inflows

of hot money dwindled to \$98.7 million and further to \$31.6 million, before slightly bouncing back to \$78.1 million in July and \$63.9 million in August.

The \$37.8 million net inflows in September, meanwhile, also stood lower than the \$52.8 million that were invested in the same month last year.

A net inflow results when the total amount of registered foreign portfolio investments is more than the amount of capital repatriation or outflows.

In September, the US Fed raised its targeted funds rate by another 25 basis points for the 11th straight session to 3.75 percent, although there was indication that the monetary authority was close to pausing at some meetings rather than raising the rate every time.

The BSP was itself forced to increase its own overnight rates by 25 basis points in the same week, partly to address the narrowing interest rate differentials between the Philippines and other countries.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 7, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	31	30.5	31	462,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	53.5	53	53.5	1,148,800
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	720
Citibank Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	70,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48.5	48.5	48.5	48.5	6,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	311,700
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	500
Phil. Savings Bank	34	34	34	34	3,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15	15	14.75	15	99,500
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	29.5	29	29	90,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	6,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2860	2860	2860	2860	90
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2020	2020	2020	2020	370
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14	14	14	7,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.93	0.95	0.93	0.94	590,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	725	735	725	730	21,920
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	300,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.95	523,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel. Co.	1680	1665	1660	1660	87,350
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	13.75	13.75	24,300
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21	20.5	20.75	431,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	2,695,000
Petrone Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	2,751,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.98	1	0.96	1	80,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Abolito Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	500,000
Imperial Container Term'l Sv	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	126,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.02	1.22	126,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.52	0.52	200,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	40,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	4,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.45	3.45	110,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38	38	36.5	36.5	81,200
Swift Food Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65.5	64.5	65.5	93,300
San Miguel Corp. B	69	92	88.5	91.5	106,100
Universal Robina Corp.	17	17	17	17	200
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	650,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	292.5	292.5	290	292.5	121,360
Abolito Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	50,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.04	2.08	2.04	2.08	32,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	170,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.5	25,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	100,000
Bempies Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	3,950,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	330,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.05	1,480,000
Ever-Golesto Resources	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,400,000
First-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.9	5	4.9	4.95	379,000
Phil Phil Hldgs Corp.	41.5	42.5	41.5	42.5	545,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.0625	0.0625	1,500,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	50,000
MacroAsia Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1,310,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	40,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	450,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.205	130,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1.16	1	1.16	427,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.18	93,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	380,000
SM Investments Corp.	218	220	218	219	420,250
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	300,000
Univest Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Musip Semiconductors Corp	1.24	1.24	1.18	1.18	100,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	1,100,000
Farmont Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.67	0.7	230,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.46	137,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14	14.25	14	14.25	69,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series BB	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series CC	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	37,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.4	8.7	8.4	8.6	22,757,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.175	0.18	10,850,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	3,970,000
Investment Land Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.28	4,086,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.185	320,000
Phil-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	580,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	40,000
SM Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	8,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	5,584,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.93	90,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	90,000
Abram Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	12,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	78,000
Lepanto Cons. Min. Co. A	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	6,790,000
Lepanto Cons. Min. Co. B	0.26	0.26	0.245	0.25	25,480,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	72,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	4,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	36,000,000
Philux Mining Corp A	0.97	0.98	0.96	0.98	17,000
Philux Mining Corp B	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.12	2,337,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26.5	26	26.5	2,330,210
Unat Paragon Mining Co.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	120,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	3,300,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	8,000,000
Oil Ref. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	113,000,000
The Philoilrll Corp. A	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	280,000
Apacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	3,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.35	4.4	4,000,000
Sinophyl Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	610,000
Unilab Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	50,000

Pre-need RP exporters need to conform to new US packaging requirement

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SALES OF PRE-NEED companies plunged 55.75 percent to P1.34 billion in August alone from P3.03 billion in the same period, battered by anemic troubles of major players.

In a monthly sales report by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the number of plans sold in August dipped 44.3 percent to 22,488 from 30,383 during the same month last year. Education plans plummeted 66.7 percent to P376.51 million from P1.13 billion. Life plans also dropped 50 percent to P213.4 million in August from P431.096 million in the same month last year. Pension plans slid 49 percent to P750.5 million in August from P1.47 billion in August 2004. **Elizabeth Sanchez**

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND Industry yesterday alerted Filipino food exporters that the United States would soon be imposing a new rule

on packaging that requires allergens to be identified in labels.

Senior Trade Undersecretary Thomas Aquino said a US law—to be known as the Food Allergen Labeling Consumer Protection

Act—would be passed soon.

"We do not want our food exporters to be caught off-guard, having no idea why their shipments are being embargoed," Aquino said. "Increasing security requirements are making our mar-

kets more complicated, demanding."

The Philippines ships out food and food preparations worth about \$1.6 billion, with the US market getting the lion's share at \$350 million or 22.2 percent of total food exports.

The eight major allergens that should be identified are milk; egg; fish, like bass and cod; crustaceans like crabs, lobster, and shrimps; tree nuts like almonds, pecans, and walnuts; wheat; peanuts; and soybeans.

So, who's afraid of new IC chief?

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Daxim L. Lucas

THE PRESENCE OF EVANGELINE Escobillo in the Insurance Commission has raised the hackles of the Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Companies.

The pre-need industry today is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission. But legislators are now deliberating the possible transfer of the pre-need industry to the IC since operations of pre-need firms and insurance companies are almost the same.

In a statement, the more than 30-strong Federation expressed "grave concern" over Escobillo's appointment as IC head. The group pointed out her public pronouncements regarding the pre-need industry.

The Federation said it is bothered by questions on Escobillo's objectivity and fairness in dealing

with the industry.

The group said Escobillo was a consulting actuary of AGILE or Accelerating Growth Investment and Liberalization with Equity, which exposed insolvency and bankruptcy of pre-need firms.

The Federation said the AGILE study, which was released sometime in the late 1990s, hurt the pre-need industry.

We believe that ... the appointee must not be tainted with perceptions ... of bias against the industry," the federation said. "For this reason we ... firmly oppose her appointment as our possible regulator."

In her reply, Escobillo said that what she did with AGILE "was only research."

"My recommendations were based on numbers, and numbers tell the truth," she said. "I want a stronger pre-need industry. I have no agenda."

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Mr. Roger H. Torralba will be available in Manila for consultations from Nov. 21-30, 2005.
Call Ms. Wilma C. Soledad for appointment at ph 885-7511 to 14 or cell 0917-621-8252.

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ABC 5	Mathzap																		
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IBC 13		Home Shopping																	
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Disney Channel	Rozes	Totally Spies	Lizzie McGuire	Brandy & Mr. Winkles	Lilo & Stitch	Totally Spies	Mr. Bean	Phil of the	Solo Life of	That's So Raven	Wonderful World								
Discovery Channel		Human	Extreme	Madness															
National Geographic		China Special																	
Cartoon Network		Pokey Academy	The Detective	Tom & Jerry	The Road	Foster's Home	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy	Tenage Mutant	Samurai Jack	Hot Wheels	Mystery Of The							
Nickelodeon	1, 2, 3	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Duke & Josh	Chickadee	Avatar: The Last	Danny Phantom	My Life As A	SpongeBob	The Fairly Odd	Four Eyes	Cow At The						
Lifestyle Network	Carol Dorell	Best Of Patsien	Radical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Duke Plate	Emil Live											
Star World		The Collector	Miami Vice																
AXN		Invisible																	
JackTV		Word Case	Chet	Ffor	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League	The Belmont	WWE Bottomline	Quay Eye For	The Straight Guy								
ETC		Saturday Night	For Love Or	Deep Shock															
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Are global warming and cyclones linked?

By Emmanuel G. Anglo, Ph.D.
Contributor

(Second of 3 parts)

SINCE THERE IS NO way to test the connection between global warming and tropical cyclones in the laboratory, climate scientists can only do so in virtual reality.

Using the world's fastest computers to simulate the atmosphere-ocean system, research teams from around the globe can test the consequences of scenarios resulting from the doubling of CO₂ levels.

But even starting from virtually identical assumptions, different global climate models yield frustratingly disparate outputs. Estimates of typhoon intensification range from 5 percent to 20 percent; others find no significant change.

One key shortcoming of these models is resolution, which defines how finely the atmosphere can be represented in a model. Even models that run on the most powerful computers are unable to adequately resolve the features of the atmosphere smaller than a kilometer, let alone clouds, a cyclone's most important feature.

Imperfect forecasts

As a result, forecasts remain imperfect. Since improving resolution demands more processing power, any new advance in high-speed computing is quickly recruited for climate modeling. For now the need to improve resolution postpones the question of whether we know enough about the physics of climate. All signs do point to the conclusion that there is much about typhoons we don't know.

These unclear results notwithstanding, many in the Philippines already believe typhoons have become stronger and more fre-



quent. An inspection of the data reveals an increase in the numbers that entered the Philippine area of responsibility during the 1990s, but the period from the 1960s to the 1970s appeared to be just as active. It is difficult to discount the possibility that any recent increases may be due to improvements in our ability to track tropical cyclones.

The varying quality of data and the dearth of good historical records afflict most attempts to document changes over the decades. The Manila Observatory has kept local meteorological records since it was established in 1865, but like other weather agencies of old its observations are limited to cyclones that approach land. Maritime logs of disturbances are available even earlier, but it's hard to trust the account of ship captains trying not to be around a typhoon when it appears.

Better data came to the Philippines when as a colony and later as host of the military bases where the United States made regular aircraft reconnaissance of disturbances in the Pacific.

Worldwide, the capacity to monitor hurricanes and typhoons only reached its present level with the advent of the satellite era in the early '70s.

Limited analysis

It is for this reason that Dr. Kerry Emanuel of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology limited his analysis to the last 30 years, and even then he had to resort to some data tweaking to allow comparability among the decades. Such shortcomings in the data inevitably foster doubt in any research that relies on them.

There are however a few points that are not in dispute. One thing the two papers agree on is that the planet is warming up. Also not in dispute is the increase in the number of strong cyclones in the recent years. The disagreement is only whether the two phenomena can be linked to human activity.

The paper of Roger A. Pielke Jr. of the University of Colorado does not discourage taking action against climate change, and warns only that justifying climate change mitigation based on

faulty science will be counterproductive and ineffective. This position is sympathetic to the Bush administration, which believes that the scientific uncertainty and the massive costs of reducing its CO₂ emissions do not justify the actions chosen by the rest of the world in the Kyoto Protocol. This uncertainty also is shared by an ever-narrowing circle of reputable climate scientists with reservations over global warming but who seem to be influential in the White House.

That Emanuel's critics include the powerful raises questions over the timing of the release of Pielke's paper, which came after Emanuel's, as if aimed at dampening the impact of the latter. Emanuel is quick to dismiss this conspiracy. Here's a scoop: he was supposed to be among the coauthors of the Pielke article, but withdrew when results of his separate study contradicted the team's cautious conclusions.

The reality is that many scientists who believe in humankind's role in changing the climate are often skeptical of any specific claims about our ability to influence tropical cyclones. Experienced professional forecasters familiar with how unpredictable and complex typhoons can be among them.

No clear statement

What seems to be missing from the skeptics is a clear statement on how strong a change or what kind of signal they require before they start believing that fossil fuel burning leads to stronger disturbances.

Emanuel's paper showed a doubling in the strength of Atlantic hurricanes; none of his critics state how much strengthening is needed before they start agreeing that what we are observing goes beyond natural variability. Will a Category 5 hurricane (the strongest class in the US system) in January be sufficient evi-

dence? A hurricane in New York City, or a Category 6?

The science is uncertain, but as activists remind us, the uncertainty should not be an excuse for inaction. In the opinion of many governments which have decided to join the effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions, it may be too late to do anything by the time definite signs appear. When they do, there is no doubt that these signs will not be pleasant, as the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina reminds the world.

Disaster management

Clarifying the connection between global warming and tropical cyclones is critical to disaster management in the Philippines not just because the record-setting number of weather disturbances that affect us every year puts to shame the few but well-televized calamities that plague the United States.

It is also because as ominous as the possibility of suffering too many typhoons is the prospect of droughts caused by too few. Either scenario cannot be ruled out as global warming progresses. If

no such link exists, we may be spared from some of its future effects and allow us to focus on our many urgent problems.

Although there is uncertainty on how much the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones will be altered by climate change, this risk is still only part of the issue. The Pielke review devotes its second half to the problem of vulnerability of US cities, specifically on how humans have placed themselves in harm's way.

Stop worrying about the connection between CO₂ emissions and Katrina, its authors say, because any damage that climate change can inflict via stronger tropical cyclones will be minuscule compared to the increased vulnerability to disasters arising from the building of homes in unstable mountainsides, coastal flood plains and natural drainage channels.

Few in the Philippines dispute the wisdom of this warning, but it has long been raised—and ignored. As Hurricane Katrina and Supertyphoon Yoyong show us, our countries have something deadly in common.

How to help children do well in math

(Conclusion)

FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS, WE HAVE BEEN listing down ways by which parents could help their children learn math. We examine some more strategies:

5. Consult the teacher immediately when problems arise. Math topics build up on previous ones, and when the child does not understand something in class, tell him to ask his teacher at once. This can be done during the class itself or by making use of the teacher's consultation hours.

During elementary and high school, I remember going to the teachers' room with some classmates and talking to the teacher there. Many students are either too shy to consult or wait for their tutors to provide the answer. But who are better to explain matters to them than their own math teacher?

Many schools have a parent-teacher communication notebook, where the concerns of the parents and the teacher can be aired. This can be a useful venue: write a request to the teacher to explain certain topics to your child, and do so the moment it is needed. For general information about your child, parent-teacher conferences are invaluable. In our survey, more than 80 percent of parents of good students always or often attend to them.

Pressure on kids

6. Do not overload. Let the child be a child, or the teen be a teen. Many parents put pressure on their kids to achieve early, often with unfortunate consequences. Be aware of developmentally appropriate learning.

For instance, do not force your 6-year-old to do division just because his "genius" cousin could already do so. Division is not impossible for young children, but they have to learn addition, subtraction and multiplication first, in an interesting, lively manner. The same thing holds for teens.

Math anxiety

7. Do not pass on your fears to your child, and ask help when needed. Many parents are the victims of circumstance, and have developed math anxiety.

A former classmate tells me ruefully, "You know how bad I was in math before. I was always running to you for help. Well, *na-karma ako!* My eldest daughter is also in ICA now. I would tutor her in everything, but in Grade 4, they suddenly had difficult stuff like least common denominator. I got scared, and I told her that I flunked that test before. Guess what happened? She failed the quiz, too. When I got mad at her, she told me, 'But Mama, you failed too, didn't you?'"

I advised her to practice doing her daugh-

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua



ter's exercises in the textbook, so she could regain (or gain) confidence. "Don't let some denominators scare you!" She took the advice to heart and was delighted by the result. She told me that since there was no more academic pressure on her now, she could actually manage the task. I gave her a list of good references (including my book "Eureka! Thoughts on Math" and "New Math for Today," where my mentor Dr. Jose Marasigan and I acted as consultants; both are available in Anvil Publishing). She also checks websites

(such as Mathforum.org) that have information on math topics.

Boy, girl stereotypes

8. Veer from stereotypes. Many girls have traditionally been reared to become housewives and mothers, to the exclusion of everything else, and their development in other fields suffers. In their case, proficiency in math is sometimes seen as unfeminine.

This often-subliminal process starts in childhood, where girls are given dolls while boys play with trains, and later on when girls are supposed to be mainly good in art and boys in science.

Another stereotype is the Chinese have an innate edge in math. This has been deemed invalid by several studies. The reasons Chinese-Filipinos generally do well in math have more to do with culture and parenting, rather than genetics.

HEART WATCH

The fight against coronary heart disease begins with you

Your dietary habits, a sedentary lifestyle and genetic limitations determine your propensity for coronary heart disease (CHD). There is nothing you can do about your genes but you can do something about your diet and lifestyle. So if you'd rather enjoy the fruits of your labor with your family than spend hard-earned money trying to recover after a heart attack or stroke, you have to learn more about cholesterol management.

First, you have to understand fats. Fats are essential to your body, supplying energy for cellular purposes while being used as building blocks to form essential structures like cell membranes.

However, saturated fats from high-fat meat and dairy products, tropical oils like palm oil, baked products and mixed dishes containing dairy fats and shortening are directly linked to higher levels of bad cholesterol or low-density lipoprotein. These fats contribute to plaque build up in arteries, increasing the risk of CHD. On the other hand, the polyunsaturated fats found in vegetables and fish oil help lower bad cholesterol.

Keep in mind that the average person should try to maintain a bad cholesterol level below 130 milligrams per deciliter of blood. If you have diabetes, your goal is to keep your bad cholesterol level below 100mg/dL. Set your goal at these optimal levels.

The next thing to do, per doctor's advice, is to shift to a therapeutic lifestyle. Quit smoking, avoid excessive alcohol intake and start losing weight. Opt for a low-saturated fat and cholesterol diet to lower CHD risk. Then increase your physical activity. Consider brisk walking, jogging, tai-chi and swimming. Doctors recommend being active for at least 30-60 minutes a day. Again, consult an expert to keep from exercise fatigue or over-exertion.

Sometimes, a lifestyle change is not enough to lower your bad cholesterol level or maintain it at an optimal level below 100mg/dL. So ask your doctor if you need lipid-lowering drug therapy.

Pharmaceutical firm Schering-Plough has broadened your options for drug therapy to include Ezetimibe, which inhibits the absorption of cholesterol in the intestinal tract. This new drug, when taken with a statin, which inhibits cholesterol production in the liver, effectively lowers the level of bad cholesterol. A combination of 10mg dose of Ezetimibe and 10mg dose of a statin has been shown to be as effective as a full dose of the statin (80mg), without posing any threat to the liver.

This one-two combination or dual inhibition is actually offered in one pill. With Schering-Plough's Ezetimibe-simvastatin drug, you need not worry about taking two different pills to achieve your cholesterol goal.

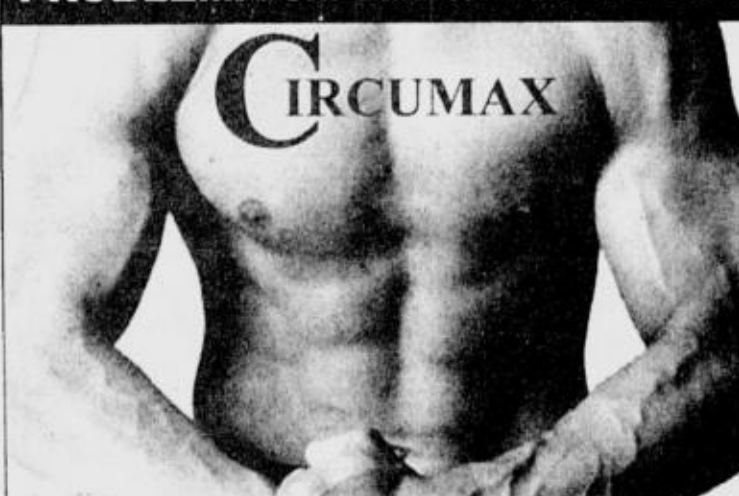
Your doctor is in the best position to determine the most effective course of action. Go and seek medical advice today.

A public service message from



Schering-Plough

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Republic of the Philippines
Center for Health Development 4
BATANGAS REGIONAL HOSPITAL
(Training & Teaching)
Batangas City

October 4, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID PROPOSED INTENSIVE CARE UNIT OF THE BATANGAS REGIONAL HOSPITAL

The Batangas Regional Hospital through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license category "B" and registration of "Medium A" for Building and Industrial Plan for the project Proposed Intensive Care Unit.

The dates to be followed are:

1	Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (Bnng original copies of Contractors License)	October 22-29, 2005
2	Submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents	November 5-8, 2005
3	Posting eligible contractors	November 15, 2005
4	Issuance of Bid Documents	November 16-21, 2005
5	Pre-Bid Conference	November 29, 2005 9:00 A.M. Conference room
6	Deadline of submission of Bids/Opening of Bids	December 12, 2005 9:00 A.M. Conference Room

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) only.

The BPH/BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any required formalities and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by BPH/BAC is the most advantageous to the government.

The BPH/BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost (ABC) for the project is P18 million.

(Sgd.) ARCELIS HERNANDEZ, M.D., FPCP, MHA
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI-October 8 & 15, 2005)

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

MERCHANDISER OF HANDICRAFTS

- 25 to 35 years old
- At least 3 years of work experience with handicraft exporters (knowledgeable in sourcing of items)
- College graduate (any course)
- Willing to travel and work overtime, if needed
- With pleasing personality

Send your resumé with latest 2 x 2 colored picture (a must) to:

THE MANAGER
P.O. Box 3630
MAKATI CENTRAL POST OFFICE
MAKATI CITY

*Only pre-qualified candidates will be called for interview.

TOOL & DIE MAKERS

Applicant should have at least 5 to 7 years experience, with knowledge and experience in press tools, cutting tools, presses, operating of Lathe, grinding machine, E.D.M. and C.N.C. milling machine. Knowledge in Autocad is an advantage.

Please email resume to drb318@yahoo.com or call Menchu Berena at 714-7114 or 716-1871

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 0000-784-336

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of:

UREA FERTILIZER
Commercial Grade - 46-0-0
"PRILLED" Type
Packed in 50-kilo bags lined with plastic
For Sugar-ACEF Related Projects

To be delivered to BAIS-URSUMCO, Lucena Port, Tanjay, Negros Oriental
Approved Budget for the Contract - P12,929,850.00

Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	October 10-24, 2005 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor, Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City for a non-refundable fee of P12,929,850.00
Pre-Bid Conference	November 9, 2005 9:00 a.m. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Envelopes	November 23, 2005 9:00 a.m. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact:

The Bidding Secretariat - Telephone No. 929-6837

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI- Oct 8 & 15, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Iloilo
Municipality of Ajuy

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.

The Local Government of Ajuy, Iloilo through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as "Small B" or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Sto. Rosario Proper - Cabaranan FMR
Location	Ajuy, Iloilo
Brief Description	Road Rehabilitation/Improvement
Approved Budget Cost	Php 7,588,704.39
Contract Duration	116 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including application of Eligibility	October 16-21, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 15-21, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	October 21, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 22, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 27 - Nov 2, 2005
6. Pre-Bid Conference	October 28, 2005, 1:30 PM
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 11, 2005, 1:30 PM

The BAC will issue to the prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat, Municipal Hall, Ajuy, Iloilo upon their submission of LOI and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Eight Hundred Pesos (P800.00) to the LGU of Ajuy's Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following forms:

- Cash/Certified Check/Cashier's check in the amount of one percent (1%) of ABC which is P75,887.04 and.
- Surety Bond which is two and a half percent (2.5%) of ABC in the amount of P189,967.61 callable on demand and issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or any reputable surety insurance company and to be posted in favor of LGU - Ajuy, Iloilo.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos only (P3,000.00) to the LGU of Ajuy's Cashier.

The LGU of Ajuy assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) NILO T. HINOJALES
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Oct 1 & 8, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY AUTHORITY-Central Luzon Regional Office (NFA-CLRO), Cabanatuan City invites suppliers, manufacturers/installers/fabricators to apply for eligibility and to bid for any or both of the following:

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET
Re-roofing of Whse. #3	Balagtas, Bulacan	Php 1,832,850.43
Re-roofing of Whse. #1	San Ildefonso, Bulacan	Php 2,279,321.46

The prospective bidder may bid upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P2,500.00 and submission of a certified photocopy of the following basic requirements:

Updated Certificates of Registration and Classification:

- DTI/SEC Registration.
- Valid and current Mayor's Permit and Official Receipt.

The Issuance of bid documents, pre-bidding conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at NFA-CLRO, Conference Room, Cabanatuan City on the following schedule:

Particulars	Date
1. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements & Bidding Documents	October 17-21, 2005 (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Regular WD)
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	November 09, 2005 (10:00 AM)
3. Submission & Opening of Bids	November 22, 2005 (10:00 AM)

The bidding shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or the Secretariat at NFA-CLRO Cabanatuan City at Telephone Numbers (044) 463-1167 or (044) 463-1168.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND/OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) RUBEN J. RESIDE
Asst. Regional Manager
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 8 & 15, 2005)

For jobseekers, log on to: www.jobmarketonline.com

BUSINESS

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following service contracts for CY2006.

SERVICE CONTRACT	PROPOSED BUDGET	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
1. Preventive Maintenance of Computers & Peripherals	Php 1,039,500.00	Php 200.00
2. Internet Subscription	1,500,000.00	Php 200.00
3. Housekeeping & Other Related Services	15,000,000.00	Php 200.00
4. Rental of Copier Machines	(actual)	Php 200.00
5. Rental of Shuttle Bus	1,920,000.00	Php 200.00
6. Corporate Health Program (HMO)	10,000.00/empl.	Php 200.00
7. Canteen Concessioning & Catering	(actual)	Php 200.00
8. Subscription to Local/International Newspapers & Magazines	(actual)	Php 200.00
9. Hauling & Disposal of Garbage	180,000.00	Php 200.00
10. Rental of Drinking Fountains	186,000.00	Php 200.00
11. Sanitizers & Automatic Air Fresheners	228,000.00	Php 200.00
12. Cooling Tower Water Treatment Program	156,000.00	Php 200.00
13. Preventive Maintenance of York Chillers	276,000.00	Php 200.00
14. Subscription to Cable Television	450,000.00	Php 200.00
15. Subscription to Local/International Journals & Reviews	(actual)	Php 200.00
16. Purchase of Video Documentation Equipment	1,490,000.00	Php 200.00

The bid documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat Office, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City starting October 5-13, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee per service contract. Also, bid bulletins on the schedules of the pre-bidding conferences, opening of bids and other information will be sent through fax.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

This invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.procurement.gov.ph and the Senate website at www.senate.gov.ph

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 4 & 8, 2005)



Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes cor. N. Reyes St. (formerly Morayta St.), Sampaloc, Manila, hereby invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Items to Bid for 2006 requirements	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Date/Venue of Submission and Opening of Bids	Non-Refundable Fee
Courier Services	P1,000,000.00	October 18, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	November 8, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	P1,000.00
Security Services	PADPAO Rates for 48 guards	October 18, 2005 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	November 8, 2005 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	P5,000.00
Printing and Supply of Computerized Application Forms (CAFs)	P502,500.00 At P3.35 per sheet of Bookpaper (For a minimum of 150,500 sheets)	October 19, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	November 9, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	P1,000.00
Printing and Supply of OMR ID/ Answer Sheets	P5,046,775.00 At P3.35 per sheet of OCR paper (For a minimum of 1,506,500 sheets)	October 19, 2005 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	November 9, 2005 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	P5,000.00
Printing and Supply of Professional Identification Cards (PRC ID Cards)	P6,499,500.00 At P30.00 per card (For a minimum of 216,650 pieces)	October 20, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	November 10, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	P5,000.00

Only bidders registered with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods and services at the Office of the BAC Chairman, Commissioner Renato B. Valdecantos, 2nd Floor, PRC Main Bldg., starting on October 4, 2005. Start of the issuance of Certification of registration to bidders shall be on October 18, 2005.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained by interested bidders starting on October 4, 2005 from the Office of the BAC Chairman.

The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-quality bids based on a set of criteria of responsiveness to the Commission's need.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA)", and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) LEONOR T. ROSERO
Chairperson

(PDI - Oct. 1 & 8, 2005)

RP rice yield seen to go up

By Christine A. Gaylican

PHILIPPINE RICE production is expected to rebound in the second semester as an additional 70,000 hectares will be planted with hybrid rice seeds during the main crop season, the Department of Agriculture said.

"From 156,000 hectares planted with hybrid rice last year, the DA and private sector have set to cultivate the high yielding seeds on 240,000 hectares that could at least bring a million metric tons of palay to be harvested," said Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiiban.

Palay production posted a negative growth rate in the first semester.

Panganiiban said that the agency is optimistic that the rice production target of 15.1 million tons would be achieved by the end of the year.

Hybrid rice seeds promise to increase yields from 4 metric tons to 9 metric tons per hectare.

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PROPERTY

Developers to tap more foreign retirees

By Charles E. Buban

THE RETIREMENT industry in the Philippines is green and growing and if one asks Philippine Retirement Authority's marketing manager Joel Voltaire Mayo, the benefits of any investment made to make the Philippines more "senior friendly" will definitely accrue to Filipino residents.

"By vigorously promoting the country as a retirement destination, the government may be able to improve its gross national reserves and avert a fiscal crisis," says Mayo.

Mayo's agency, the PRA, is a government-owned and -controlled corporation with the mandate to attract foreign nationals and former Filipino citizens to retire in the Philippines.

According to him, the PRA's thrust is toward accelerating socio-economic devel-

opment; contributing to foreign currency reserve; and providing, in a most attractive package, the best quality of life to its foreign retirees. "The country's subdivision and housing developers should consider this sector as their prime target," says Mayo during the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association-Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council national developers convention in Bacolod City.

Sunrise industry

SHDA corporate secretary and State-land SVP Bienvenido Uy agrees: "The development of the country's so-called sunrise industry opens the door to huge opportunities for real estate developers and the government to explore."

He explains that when foreign retirees come home in huge numbers, this group brings with them foreign exchange which they spend either for deposit to get their investment visas through the PRA and for their sustenance and medical health requirements.

"No equivalent foreign exchange goes

out in keeping the retirees in our country whereas, our No. 1 exports of electronic products incur substantial dollar cost of raw materials imports, thus reducing the export proceeds," reveals Uy.

Depending on several sectors

But how to attract and how long it will take for developers to tap this huge market will depend on several sectors that must provide the climate that is conducive for foreign retirees to consider the Philippines.

Says Uy: "The challenge is how to successfully market the retirement business. There are issues that should be addressed including the country's image problem (corruption being rampant), high incidence of crime, lack of security and destabilization. Whether these perceptions are true or not, we should all work together to change these perceptions."

Uy in his own development project, the Chester Place in Dasmariñas, Cavite has already included a section in his subdivision that attracts Japanese retirees.



Chester Place, PRA-accredited project, features its own medical clinic despite its closeness to the De La Salle Hospital Health Services (a major come-on for retirees) and provides ready access to various golf courses and resorts.

"Why do the Japanese need retirement facilities outside their highly developed country? The answer is because they are not able to get enough health care workers and enough money coming from pension programs and interest earning in Japan," reveals Uy.

Lifestyle visa

Mayo relates that these Japanese as well as other nationals will be provided with the Special Resident Retiree's Visa (SRRV), which is a special nonimmigrant resident visa that provides its holders with

multiple-entry and indefinite-stay status in the Philippines.

"Much more, the SSRV grants tax-free incentives and privileges as well as value-added services and benefits that they can avail of from PRA partner establishments such as hotels, resorts, retirement facilities and restaurants," explains Mayo.

He adds that the SSRV can be considered a "lifestyle" visa for those who enjoy perks and privileges, a "hassle-free" visa for the frequent business traveler and a "retirement visa" for the elderly who need special care for their special needs.

Privileges or benefits

According to Mayo, a resident retiree or holder of the SRRV is accorded the follow-

DEVELOPERS/B2-3



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Demolition or deconstruction?

IT IS SAID THAT DAILY GARBAGE in the United States can fill dump trucks lined up from Los Angeles to San Francisco. Here at home the estimate is that at the present rate of garbage pileup and collection, in 30 years Metro Manila will carry knee-deep solid waste over the entire metropolis. In view of this, disposal capacity and environmental risks have become critical.

Today, there is a system of reusing building parts that is a growing trend in Europe and the United States, in answer to the lack of space for dumpsites. The system which is known as deconstruction, has been gaining more advocates due to its practical and economic benefits.

What is deconstruction?

Deconstruction is a system where structures are dismantled for the purpose of reusing components and building materials. The main goal is to reduce the amount of construction materials from the waste stream. This is done by the reuse of materials in new or existing structures.

Materials that are used, almost in their original form, retain their current economic value. Other materials not reused immediately, can be recycled, downcycled or upcycled.

Recycling means the manufacture of a new product using reclaimed or waste materials. Downcycling means taking a high-grade material and turning it into a low-grade material, often using fuel energy. Upcycling means taking a low-grade material and turning it into a high-grade material, often using human energy. An example

GREEN ARCHITRENDS



Amado de Jesus

of immediate reuse is wooden trusses for use as structural parts of a building. A good example of recycling is turning scrap steel into new steel bars.

Downcycling can be converting concrete slab into coarse aggregate. Upcycling may include conversion of lumber into custom cabinetry or wall paneling.

Deconstruction is a new term that describes a traditional process, which involves the selective removal of materials from buildings that are to be demolished or renovated. In this country, there are many contractors who specialize in this field. Many of them sell these materials in junk shops. The common practice in the industry is to select only the accessible recyclable, reusable, or valuable materials before the traditional demolition.

Traditional demolition

Traditional demolition involves haphazard methods resulting in a pile of mixed construction debris, which ends in the dumpsite. Deconstruction, on the other hand, involves a comprehensive approach that manages to salvage most of the materials for reuse.

This is done through a careful disassembly of structures in a reverse construction sequence. For example, carefully removing finishing nails or screws from metal roofing sheets, is followed by the

removal of gutters and accessories before dismantling roof trusses.

Deconstruction compared to demolition requires more manpower and is environment friendly. It can significantly reduce the pileup of construction solid waste instead of burning debris as often seen in many construction sites.

Another advantage of dismantling a building is that the materials are kept in service for as long as possible. This means there are no additional energy spent mining new resources or manufacturing new products.

Why deconstruction?

The construction industry consumes 40 percent of all extracted materials. Thirty percent of all energy used is a result of the construction industry and the built environment. This has brought about the accumulation of millions of tons of waste produced annually by construction and demolition waste.

Structures are built and on average are demolished 28 years later. With traditional demolition, most of the materials from these buildings end up in piles of mixed debris. Clearly, the industry has to seek ways to improve the way it manages materials consumption, reuse and recycling.

Benefits of deconstruction

With the high cost of energy and labor that goes into the design and construction of buildings, the industry is now realizing that demolishing a structure is simply not cost-efficient. By reusing materials, we save the "embodied energy" in the products, which is the energy used for the manufacture and

transport of these materials.

Deconstruction offers many other benefits such as when older buildings that have significant historical value are renovated. Deconstruction allows for historical architectural features to be handled carefully.

Deconstruction requires basic skills that can be passed on to unskilled and low-skilled workers who receive training in the use of tools and techniques for carpentry and construction.

Economic benefits can also be derived through the sale of salvaged materials. It also puts back in circulation, materials that may be used as components in other buildings.

Getting started

Putting the system in place is not easy. The successful implementation of deconstruction will require the support of government and business working together toward a common goal. Deconstruction can result in a community economic development.

The education and training of deconstructors must be given priority. Next, comes the creation of outlets for the salvaged materials. And finally, deconstruction can be the main source of materials for recycling centers and remanufacturing companies.

There are several barriers that prevent the implementation of deconstruction. One is the lack of awareness of its many benefits. The attitude against change is a big barrier. Another big barrier is cost. The higher labor cost of deconstruction compared to traditional demolition can be offset by the use of salvaged materials.



DECONSTRUCTION, as opposed to traditional demolition can result in 40 percent solid waste reduction because of recycling and reuse of materials.

PHOTO SOURCE: KARIN HEBMANN

Perhaps it is the public who can demand and drive policy toward environmental preservation. The construction industry could select and specify recyclable materials when building structures. It could also see to it that construction debris in the mixed state is sorted and separated at the job site to allow immediate reuse of materials and facilitate easier recycling.

Thus, the construction industry will help remove usable materials from the waste stream, decrease airborne lead, asbestos and dust at and around construction sites.

Collecting, sorting and separating reusable or recyclable construction materials will result in the creation of businesses that sell, supply used materials and manufacture new products. These materials could also end up improving dilapidated neighborhoods.

It is time to start implementing a serious deconstruction program.

(The author is the chair of the board of judges of the Asean Energy Awards 2005 and is a practicing green architect. For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.)

Landco leads the pack in leisure, resort dev't

TODAY'S LEISURE CATEGORY is bursting with great potential, with various property developers joining the field. But while other players are only just entering the leisure segment, Landco Pacific Corp. has been there, done that and moving on to cooking up even bigger "firsts" in the industry.

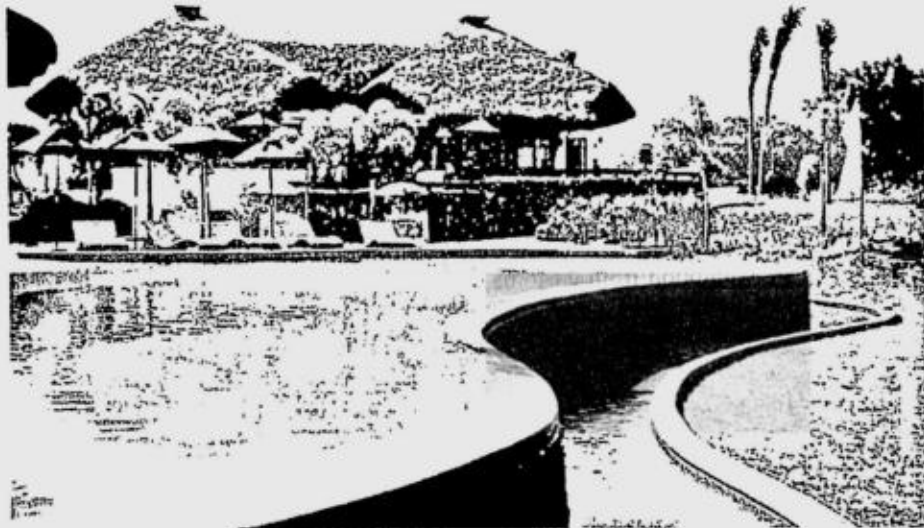
Landco's leisure communities stand out because they are the first and the best in their class.

- **Peninsula de Punta Fuego.** The frontrunner of seaside residential resorts, the Peninsula today is a veritable showcase of mansions of society's elite, now numbering a hundred with 40 more under construction. The community is also home to Club Punta Fuego which offers homeowners and members two-level infinity pool overlooking the sea, tennis and squash courts, mini theater, water sports, a golf course with all-around sea views, 33 newly upgraded casitas, and 12 pocket white sand beaches.

- **All-new Spa and soon, the South Marina.** The Spa has just been renovated and reopened as the Ylang Ylang Spa, featuring a fresh new look and a full complement of facilities and services. Construction of the South Marina is also expected to finish this year, thrusting the Peninsula at the center of marine recreation and seafaring lifestyle in the south. The Marina will be complemented by state of the art floating docks to accommodate 30- to 60-footer yachts, the Marina Yacht Clubhouse, a chartroom as well as locker and shower facilities.

- **Terrazas de Punta Fuego.** It is located at the center of an 800-meter stretch of fine white sand and aqua-hued waters. The community is a melding of Mediterranean and Asian definitions of relaxation and serenity with its beautiful pools, the seaside Café Sol and the boardwalk with interlinked cabanas.

- **Leisure Farms.** A simple yet revolutionary concept, the Leisure Farms' lifestyle is all about going back to the basics and savoring life's genteel simplicity. Its master plan includes amenities such as the Village



CLUBHOUSE, Leisure Farms (Lemery, Batangas)



THE BOARDWALK, Terrazas de Punta Fuego

Store, Clubhouse and Forest Trail Lake.

- **Ponderosa Leisure Farms.** This is a flower garden community with residential resort features. A haven for green thumbs, the Ponderosa landscape is filled with pretty Mexican-Spanish homes and themed gardens and charming plazas matched to its surroundings and concept.

Projects in the pipeline

Landco Pacific remains true to form, as an originator of many industry firsts, with several innovative lifestyle concepts never been seen before, lined up for 2005 and 2006.

- **Amara en Terrazas.** The Amara en Terrazas Luxury Oceanfront Residences

puts Punta Fuego in the spotlight yet again with another original—the first seaside condominium in its class, perched atop a cliff on the most prime location in Terrazas.

- **Calatagan.** Also launching this year is a 92-hectare integrated residential and tourism estate in Calatagan, Batangas, expected to draw Metro Manila weekenders. It will feature exclusive seaside homes, hotels, a commercial center, apartment and condominium buildings, and recreational destinations.

- **Joint venture with Escudero family.** Landco will also undertake the development of the 400-hectare Escudero estate covering the towns of San Pablo, Laguna and Dolores and Tiaong in Quezon into a mixed residential-commercial master-planned community.

- **First golf complex in Montalban.** Landco's leisure domination moves northeast with a joint venture with Capitol Hills Golf to develop a 150-hectare golf resort estate in Macabud, Montalban.

As the leader in the leisure and resort category, Landco Pacific remains bullish and aggressive in taking lifestyles to the next level by coming up with leisure concepts and ultimate second homes that are ever more original, distinctive, creative and rooted in the market's needs.

Zialcita to keynote Creba-HUDCC convention

REP EDUARDO C. ZIALCITA, CHAIR of the House of Representatives committee on housing and urban development, will be the keynote speaker at the opening of the 2005 national convention of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) on Oct. 13.

The convention with the theme "Creba-HUDCC: Linking the Best in Philippine Property and Tourism to the World," will focus on the country's investment climate and opportunities for international financing for property and tourism development in the country.

Efren "Choy" Alas, overall convention chair, said it will be held at the Tagaytay Highlands, Tagaytay City.

Thrusts, reforms

Vice President Noli de Castro, HUDCC chair, will speak on the current and future thrusts and reforms of the housing program following a forum on continuing housing issues. He is on top of the government's housing agencies pushing for housing projects, especially for the lower and middle sectors.

Dr. Jaime A. Cura, Creba national president, and HUDCC vice chair Amado S. Bagatsing will formally open the convention. Founded in the early 1960s, Creba is composed of some 3,000 players in the country's housing and real estate industry with chapters nationwide and in the United States. It has linkages in the Asia-Pacific region and in Europe. Lawyer Manuel V. Serrano is board chair.

RP investment climate

To discuss the country's investment climate for property and tourism development are Alan J.M. Dalgleish, managing director, Colliers International Philippines Inc., "International Tourism Perspective—Opportunities and

Threats for the Philippines"; Ms Rudy Reinke, counselor for commercial affairs, US embassy, "Building for the Future: Resources for Tourism Development"; Dr. Nathaniel von Einsiedel, chair, Concepcion Inc., "Development Opportunities in Key Philippine Cities"; Bruce Tulloch, managing director, Resort Suites International-Asia Pacific, "Next Generation Leisure—Products and Investment Offerings"; general manager Robert Dean Barbers, Philippine Tourism Authority.

Gemma Cruz-Araneta, president, Heritage Conservation Society; Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab, Mexican Ambassador to the Philippines Erendira Paz, "View on Philippine Property Development and Tourism-Mexico"; Kok Hong Chong, business development manager, RCI-Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd.; Samie Lim, vice president for tourism, retailing and franchising, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, "PCCI Investour—Five-Point Program."

Continuing housing dev't issues

The Creba-HUDCC forum will focus on continuing housing development issues. The speakers will be Land Reform Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Michael T. Defensor, lawyer Romeo ES. Quimbo, president, Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-ibig Fund); and Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Eduardo R. Soliman.

Forum panelists are Bagatsing; Gonzalo Bongolan, president, Home Guaranty Corp.; lawyer Fermin Arzaga, OIC and EVP for housing, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.; Commissioner Romulo Q. Fabul, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board; and GM Federico A. Laxa, National Housing Authority.

An artist's life at Ayala Westgrove Heights

WHEN JOURNALIST-TURNED PAINTER Peter Sutcliff decided to retire quietly in the Philippines with Filipina wife Leni, he did not look far to find the perfect home. His frequent visits to the country had him explore wealth of artistic talents here but also develop a unique attraction to the quality of life offered by Ayala-developed properties especially in the South of Manila.

"When we saw Ayala Westgrove Heights, right away we said, 'This is it!'" revealed Sutcliff. It took them two years to build their house but it was well worth it. "It's so fantastic out here. You see magnificent trees, open spaces, beautiful views, big skies, glorious foliage, lots of birds and cool breeze. Truly a great landscape subject for my paintings!"

Serenely exquisite milieu

Sutcliff, who just had his first public exhibit of select paintings in Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, proudly showcased three pieces reflecting the serenely exquisite environment of Ayala Westgrove Heights. "I must say the unique Philip-

pine landscape as a subject has been neglected for the longest time. Since moving here, it has been a great source of inspiration. All I need is to look out and there's a fine subject!"

With his home serving as the perfect setting for his passion for art, Sutcliff welcomed the opportunity to share his talents with artistically inclined neighbors. "Right now, I have set up a small studio that accommodates about two students. Hopefully, I would be able to accommodate more."

Enough reasons

More than a subject for his paintings, Sutcliff believes Ayala Westgrove Heights has given him enough reasons to enjoy his retirement. "Maybe for some it's a good place to raise kids, a lucrative investment, but for me it's the whole concept of community. The beauty of surroundings and friendliness of the people surely make Ayala Westgrove Heights a great place to live!" And yes, paint to his heart's delight.

Find out all about Ayala Westgrove



AYALA Westgrove Heights residents were among the first to view Peter Sutcliff's paintings at his first show held in Makati recently.

Heights, the exclusive residential subdivision being touted as "The Next Big Thing after Ayala Alabang." This fully integrated, master-planned community is packed with completed amenities, breathtaking landscapes and a vibrant neighborhood of schools, shopping centers and nearby hospitals.

Please call 728-7000, log on to www.ayala-land.com.ph or e-mail ayala-sales@ayala-land.com.ph.



PETER Sutcliff is with Ayala Westgrove Heights Homeowners Association president Bobby Chan who spoke during opening of Peter Sutcliff exhibit held recently at Glorietta Mall in Makati City. The event showcased Sutcliff's favored paintings.



ART is beautiful... Here is one of Sutcliff's personal favorites.

Adamson U restores 'Belgian lace' motif

By Angelina G. Goloy
Contributor

AS THOUGH SYMBOLIC OF ITS efforts to promote its cultural and artistic programs, Adamson University is showcasing the "lace" motif in the current makeover of the campus.

The university is restoring the original decorative design on the balconies of a cluster of buildings that used to be St. Theresa's College (STC), located at 920 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila.

World-famous lace

The design is believed to be inspired by the traditional pattern of the world-famous lace made in Belgium, whence came the ICM nuns who established STC in 1915.

"I heard that these buildings are probably the only ones in the country with this design," said university president Fr. Gregg L. Bañaga, CM, in a phone interview on Monday.

"We want to preserve the distinct characteristics of this cluster of buildings, as well as the others that we have acquired over the years. That's what makes our campus unique," he explained.

The lace design lends elegance to the buildings, university archivist Raul Agner says in one of his writings, wherein he likens the pattern to "a delicate row of cookies."

In the original design of the STC buildings, the Belgian lace motif "trimmed" the second, third, and fourth-floor balconies on all but one side of the buildings that boxed the quadrangle. It also appeared in other areas, such as the bridge leading to the auditorium.



ST. Theresa's College Manila's façade

Sometime after STC closed in 1980 and Adamson, which had bought the property, occupied it, some of the "laced" balconies were replaced by steel barriers. One such change was made on the side of the chapel on the second floor.

Campus renovation

To be able to reproduce the design faithfully, the contractor executing the campus renovation had a cast made from the existing balconies, Father Bañaga mentioned.

The restoration started three years ago, and the renovation of the entire campus will be completed in time for the university's 75th anniversary in 2007.

Adamson, a Catholic university run by the Vincentian fathers, was founded in 1932 as a school of industrial chemistry. Over the years it established its strength in engineering.

"But we want to show that we can also excel in culture and the arts," Father Bañaga said.

In line with this goal, Adamson recently opened an art gallery. Earlier, in June, it inaugurated the University Theater, formerly the STC Auditorium, redesigned by architect Joel Lopez.

The original structure, built in the 1960s, was designed by architect Carlos Quisumbing (not Norberto, as previously reported), said Agner. He oversaw the theater inauguration ceremonies, together with culture and arts consultant Jenny Luber.

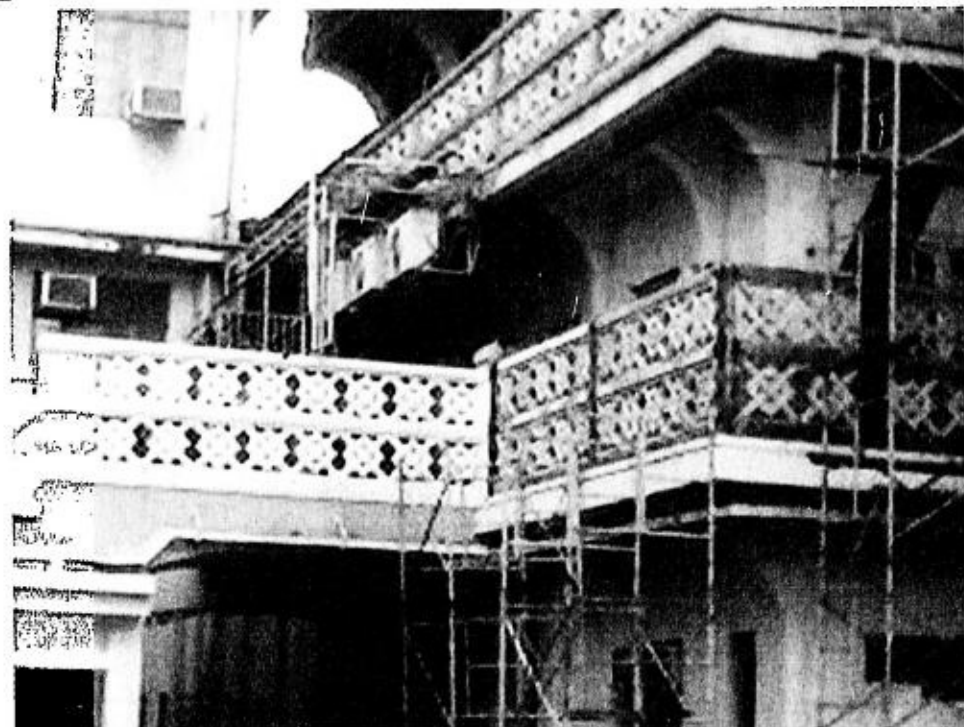
Adamson purchased the STC in 1977, following the ICM nuns' decision to reorient their mission toward more social action.

The building, along with the improvements and fixtures "placed Adamson University in a higher plane," according to the book, Adamson University: A History (1932-1992).

"It was one of the best acquisitions the Vincentian Fathers had because of the price, location and prestige of the College," wrote authors Fr. Rolando S. Delagoza, CM, former university president, and Bernardita Reyes Churchill, PhD.

One of the top exclusive schools

"St. Theresa's College was considered one of the top exclusive schools in the country which produced many great names in Philippine literature," they wrote.



BELGIAN lace

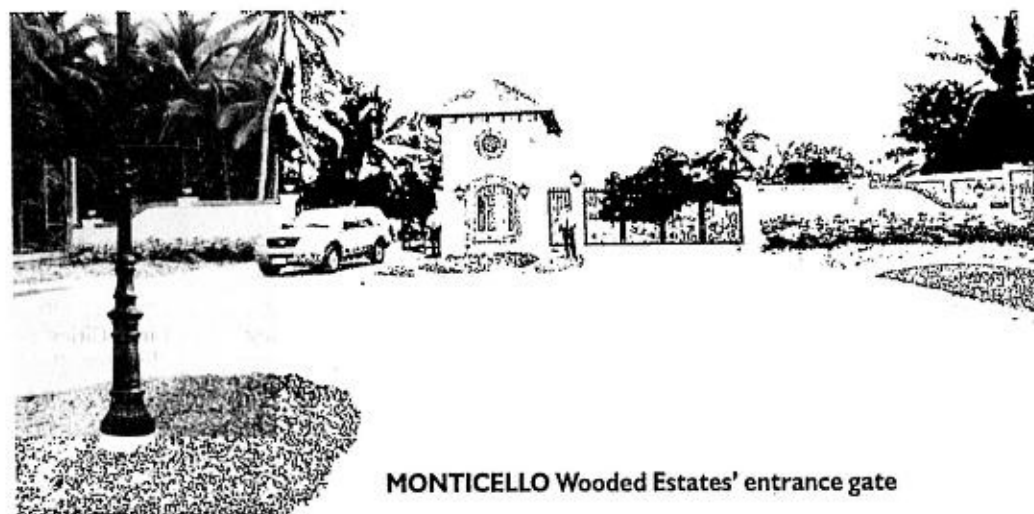
Theresians are in for a sneak preview of the Belgian lace restoration when the STC Manila Foundation holds "College Day @ San Marcelino" on Oct. 15. Organized to rally alumnae behind the project to establish a new STCM, the whole-day affair features a *tiangge* (flea market), bingo, raffle, campus tour and Mass, to be said by Fr. Francis Caluag Cruz, CM.

It will be the first time that Theresians will revisit their former campus as a group since the school closed 25 years ago and it coincides with what would have been STCM's 90th anniversary, said event chair Celia Guevara-Lazaro.

The event also serves to promote goodwill between Adamson and STC.

"We may have bought STC," remarked Father Bañaga, "but we acknowledge that the buildings had previous owners...and we respect their desire to preserve their memories of the school." He himself recalled saying Mass and hearing confession for kindergarten pupils a few times shortly before STC closed.

He assured Theresians that "as the buildings' former occupants, they are always welcome to visit."



MONTICELLO Wooded Estates' entrance gate

At Monticello, the woodland is the garden, the sky's the ceiling

STRADDLING THE TOWNS OF MALVAR AND Tanauan in Batangas, Monticello Wooded Estates is a premium residential development where the natural and the man-made intermingle into a fresh and verdant garden community.

Spread on a 55-hectare property of rustic woodland bordered by the San Juan River, Monticello Wooded Estates enables residents to truly feel at one with nature, enjoy the movement of the seasons, and at the same time, indulge in the world-class sports and leisure amenities of this exclusive enclave.

Subscribing to trend-setting concepts in community development, developer Active Group envisions Monticello Wooded Estates as an exclusive residential address in the bosom of nature, with no crowds, no pollution and a safe haven away from the city.

Uninterrupted view

True to its name (Monticello "hillock" or "small wooded area" in Italian), the property is planted with trees that provide ample fresh air and shade. At Monticello, one's garden extends to the lush vegetation of the woodland, giving an uninterrupted view of green.

Water is an essential feature of Monticello landscape and this is most evident in the man-made lake right at the heart of the property, and in the pristine San Juan River that flows at its back end. Fishing enthusiasts can cast a line along its banks on a leisurely afternoon. Joggers and strollers can enjoy the view from the promenade ringing the lake, while nature lovers can take to the forest trails or stroll underneath a canopy of trees.

Best of worlds

At Monticello, residents enjoy the best of worlds. Despite the rustic ambience, this residential development will be hosting contempo-

rary creature comforts. To be built along the banks of the San Juan River, the Villa Monticello Country Club commands a panoramic view of the verdant surroundings.

Designed to cater to the residents' leisurely pursuits, the clubhouse will include a covered children's playground, restaurant and viewing deck, wine room, and swimming pools for adults and children. It will also have a multipurpose hall and a gym.

Unique features

Some unique features of its design reiterates Monticello's general concept that allows nature to be a part of its residents' activities: the meditation garden, for instance, has a direct access to the San Juan River for freshwater activities.

The river and the surrounding scenery also present a relaxing backdrop to the riverside spa.

This tranquil garden community is just an hour and a half drive from Manila. Located five kilometers away from the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (Star) Tollway, which cuts travel time to and from the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), Monticello is ideally situated near the industrial parks of Batangas.

Free hand

While the community follows an Old World wooded estate theme, homeowners are allowed to exercise creativity by giving them a free hand in designing the house of their dreams. This is if they follow building restrictions, and a setback of five meters for both the front yard facing the street and the rear of the property is observed.

After all, in this nature reserve, the woodland is the garden and the sky's the ceiling.

For inquiries regarding investment opportunities in the Monticello Wooded Estates, e-mail sales@activegroup.com.ph or visit www.activegroup.com.ph.

Developers to tap . . .

From page B2-1

ing privileges or benefits:

- Permanent, nonimmigrant status with multiple-entry privileges through the Special Resident Retiree's Visa
- Exemption from customs duties and taxes for the importation of personal effects, appliances and household furniture worth \$7,000
- Exemption from Bureau of Immigration exit clearance and reentry permit
- Exemption from payment of travel tax provided the retiree has not stayed in the Philippines for more than one year from date of his last entry into the country
- Conversion of the requisite deposit into active investment, including purchase of a condominium unit

cluding purchase of a condominium unit

• Foreign currency time deposit can be converted into peso deposit, but interest is subject to withholding tax

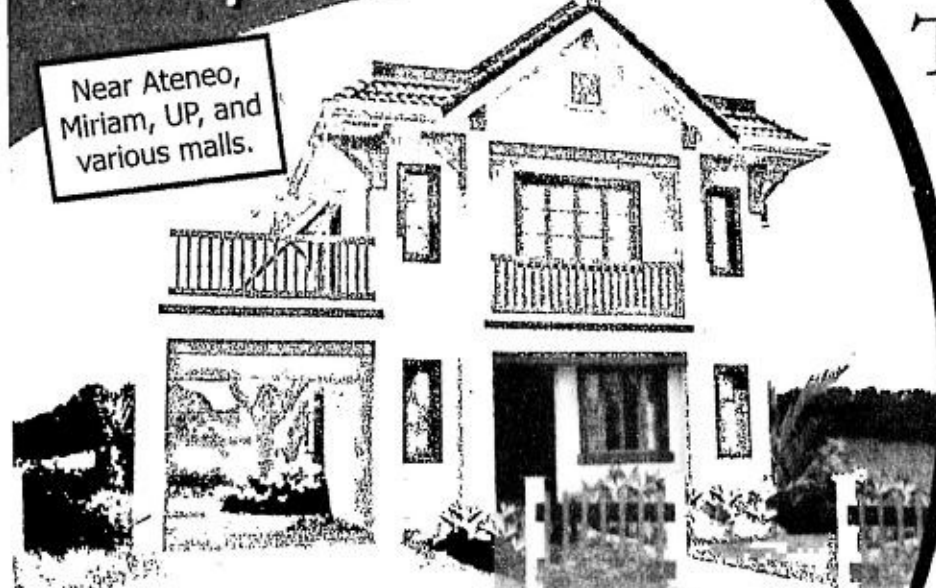
• Pension, annuities remitted to the Philippines are tax-free

• Guaranteed repatriation of the requisite deposit including invested profits, capital gains and dividends accrued from investments, upon compliance with Bangko Sentral rules and regulations.

"A number of Japanese are already enjoying these perks. Based on our studies, there are now some 30 million retirees aged 60 and over. We could only entice even a portion of this market," challenges Uy.

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Another dose of the sweet life at Courtyards II of Portofino

WHAT STARTED OUT as a sublime expression of *la dolce vita* has evolved into a phenomenal residential development that has left people yearning for more.

Prompted by the stellar success of Italian-inspired Courtyards of Portofino, Brittany Corp. continues the plush and vibrant legacy of this master-planned property by bringing a splendid addition to the first Courtyards development. Just as its predecessor, the joy and romance of Italian living endures in this haven south of the metro. The sweet life beckons the second time around at Courtyards II of Portofino.

"From the very beginning, we knew that Courtyards of Portofino was meant to be Brittany's masterpiece. It brought together key elements of the Italian architecture along with the European city's lifestyle that is very familiar to the Filipino sensibilities. Its tremendous success is an affirmation of our vision for what luxury urban living in Metro Manila should be.

"We are confident that Courtyards II of Portofino can replicate the success of Courtyards I. From the first development, we understood that people want a better quality of life. We all want secure homes with open spaces where our children can play and where houses are not cramped. And with the second Courtyards development, we hope that more people can enjoy this Italian enclave just a short distance from the central business district," said Jing Serrano, president of Brittany Corp.

Courtyards II, just like its predecessor, is inspired by the unusual combination of grandeur and coziness of the Italian lifestyle. And, as the name suggests, it is the courtyard that serves as its most distinctive feature. These clusters of homes



THESE ARCHES rest elegantly above the columns and serve to accent courtyard design and complete an Italian motif.

are configured in such a way that it surrounds a central courtyard. Thus, the houses form pocket communities that make up the development.

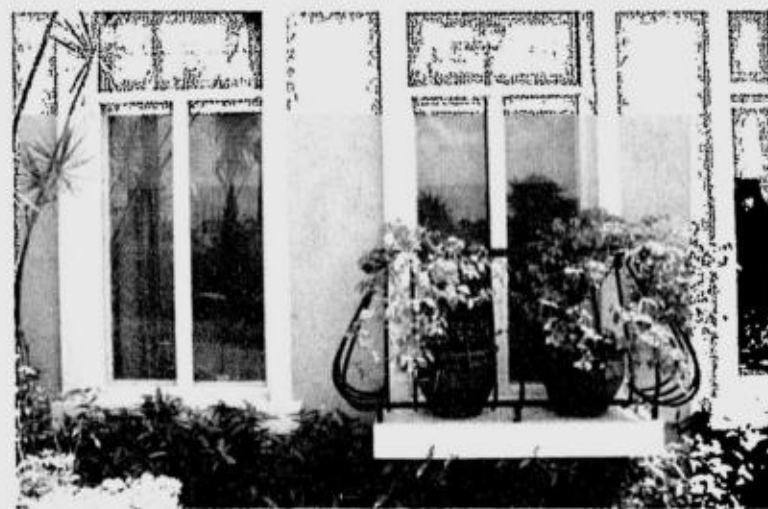
But the more unique feature is the inner courtyard found within each of the homes. There is an open space—either at the center or at the side of the residence—that can be accessed from the surrounding hallways. This particular configuration encourages more family interaction by providing a specific area

where members of the household are bound to run into each other. The open layout also allows more sunshine and fresh air to circulate within the structure.

For the master of the household, *casitas* were integrated in the design with their needs especially in mind. Each home has a room that is slightly set apart from the main house. While ideal for staying guests, it is primarily meant to be a quiet space that would allow the homeowner to indulge in his personal business.

A finishing touch to these residences is the porticos. These arches that rest elegantly above the columns accent the courtyard design and serve to complete the charming Italian motif.

Located within the Portofino development along the Las Piñas-Cavite-Laguna-Muntinlupa Link Road, Courtyards II is a charming cluster of homes just beside the WideLots of Portofino property. It is five minutes away from Alabang's commercial district and 30 minutes away



EVERY detail is a masterpiece.

from Makati.

Only 77 Courtyard homes are being offered to ensure the exclusivity of the property. Lot cuts range from 289 to 593 sq m. Price packages range from P12.8 to P15.8 million.

"The Courtyards II is for people who understand how precious life is and know how to make every minute count. The sweet life truly is present within this community. The romance, grandeur and rustic charms of Italy is comfortably blended into the local landscape creating a space where time can literally stop and the hustle and bustle of urban living is shut off, unable to enter the sun-drenched colored walls," said Nova Noval, head of Corporate Communications.

Just like its other developments, the Courtyards II also offers premium utilities for its residents. To ensure an unobstructed view of the landscape, cables for power and communication were buried underground.

Perimeter fences and buffer trees line the boundary lots to ensure security apart from the 24-hour security system that safeguards the entire community. Deep wells and water reservoirs ensure a round the clock water service. Garbage is collected every other day. Most of all, a professional property management team secures the community and makes sure that the high standards are maintained long after the last lot has been purchased.

Property previews may be arranged at 850-6986, 850-2868 or 850-3084.

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Out

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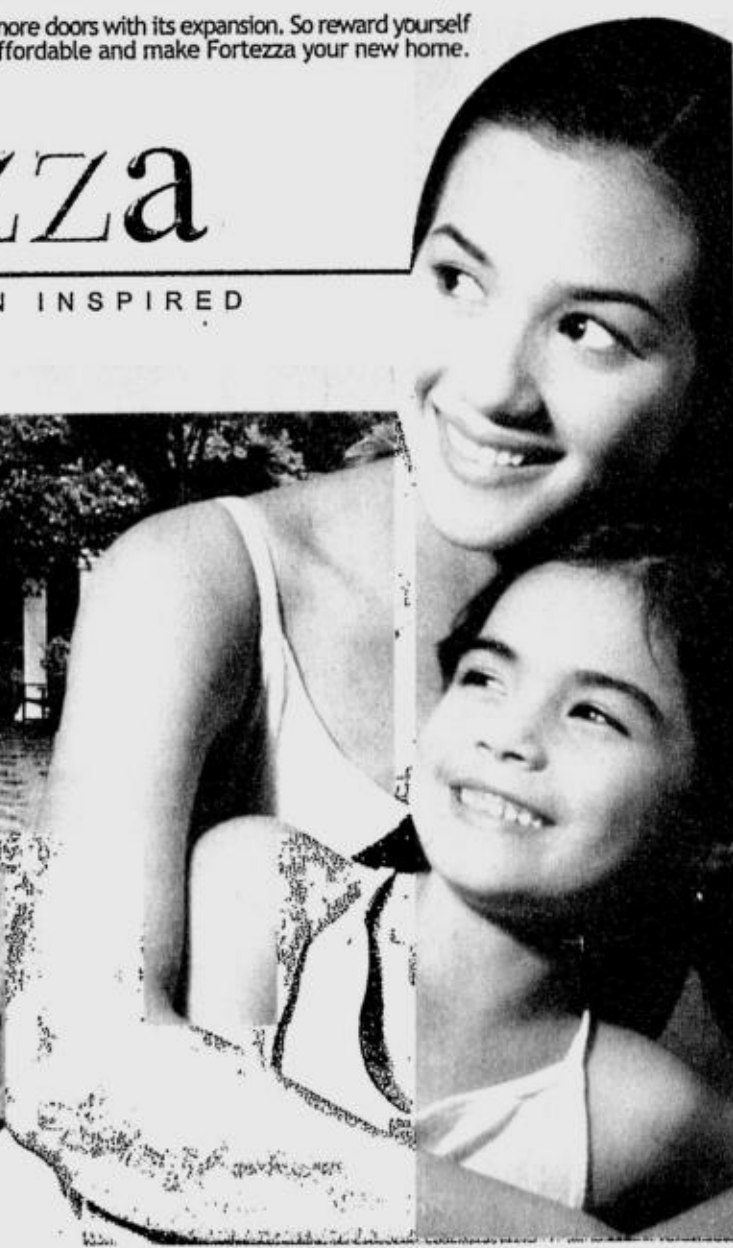
This over 15-hectare gated community offers Italian-themed houses with two and three distinctive bedroom floor plans. Spacious, elegant and functional, selected homes feature added family-centered rooms such as the family area and lanai.

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Via Calamba, take the National Road going to Cabuyao passing Mayapa Junction. Upon reaching Pulo (w/ Hardflex billboard) turn left. Go straight till Pulo Diezmo Diversion Road and you will see Fortezza on the left.

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Crown Asia
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Mille Luce: Urban living at breathtaking heights

NOWADAYS, FINDING A NEIGHBORHOOD with such distinct characteristics amid the metro's concrete jungle is close to impossible. Equipped with a decade of experience in creating master-planned communities throughout the country, Crown Asia brings thousands of Filipino families' dreams into reality with the launch of Mille Luce, its latest development.

Crown Asia takes urban living to breathtaking heights with its newest neighborhood situated atop one of the metro's highest peaks in the hills of Antipolo, Rizal. Meaning "a thousand lights" in Italian, Mille Luce is indeed a suitable title to give new meaning to "havens" as its strategic location makes it your home between the stars and the city lights.

A sight to behold

A sloping lot crowned with a linear peak at Mille Luce grants a magnificent 360 degree vista of Metro Manila's skyline and a glimpse of Laguna de Bay during the daytime, while the vibrant metropolitan lights are a sight to behold once the sun sets.

Urbanization throughout the country limits the possibility of finding a community with natural sprawling greens. Yet at Mille Luce, the community is surrounded by orchards with scores of mango trees and other fruit bearing varieties. Though Antipolo's forested charm and rustic ambience is a far cry from the polluted metropolis, Mille Luce's location on M.L. Quezon Avenue is only a 45-minute drive from the business and commercial district of Ortigas.

As a carefully themed neighborhood, Mille Luce offers a tasteful selection of model homes. All Italian-inspired, the Portia, Sophia, Dione, Umbriel, and Europa models marry inge-

nious architecture with the natural contours of Antipolo's hills.

Defined clusters

Mille Luce meets each family's unique needs, taste and budget with an array of well-defined clusters:

- **Pastorale.** Allocated for single-detached homes, the Pastorale is adjacent to the roadside and situated amid the orchard's most abundant growth. Price ranges from P2.9 to P6 million.

- **L'Altra.** Another cluster found at the highest peak of Mille Luce, the L'Altra nestles terraced, single-detached homes. Each unit at L'Altra features an inner courtyard perfect for experiencing the cool outdoors within the privacy of your own home. Price starts at P8 to 10 million.

- **La Scala.** A cul-de-sac cluster of multiple family dwellings, the La Scala evokes the feeling of belonging to a close-knit community while maintaining each family's privacy. The area is gated for exclusivity and added security.

- **Porte Porteze.** Named after a famous commercial area in Rome, Mille Luce's commercial area brings practical conveniences within the reach of Mille Luce homeowners. The surrounding old mango trees provide vast shades ideal for shopping around the vicinity and leisure walks.

Guiding the master-planned development of Mille Luce and the other communities of Crown Asia are the five core values they persistently adhere to: greenery, security, choices, serenity and attainability.

Visit Mille Luce and discover an elusive haven of affordable luxury amid the untapped parts of the metropolis. Property previews may be arranged by contacting Crown North at 634-9001 and 634-9002.



NEWEST RESORT IN BORACAY

Boracay Tropics consultants Sally Bongalonta and Annie Convoar greet Department of Foreign Affairs' Evelyn Austria-Garcia at their booth, finalist for Best Design at the recently concluded Philippine Travel Mart. Boracay Tropics is the newest 50-room resort hotel in the island meticulously designed as an exclusive and self-contained sanctuary of sprawling estate of verdant landscape.

Super! Countdown

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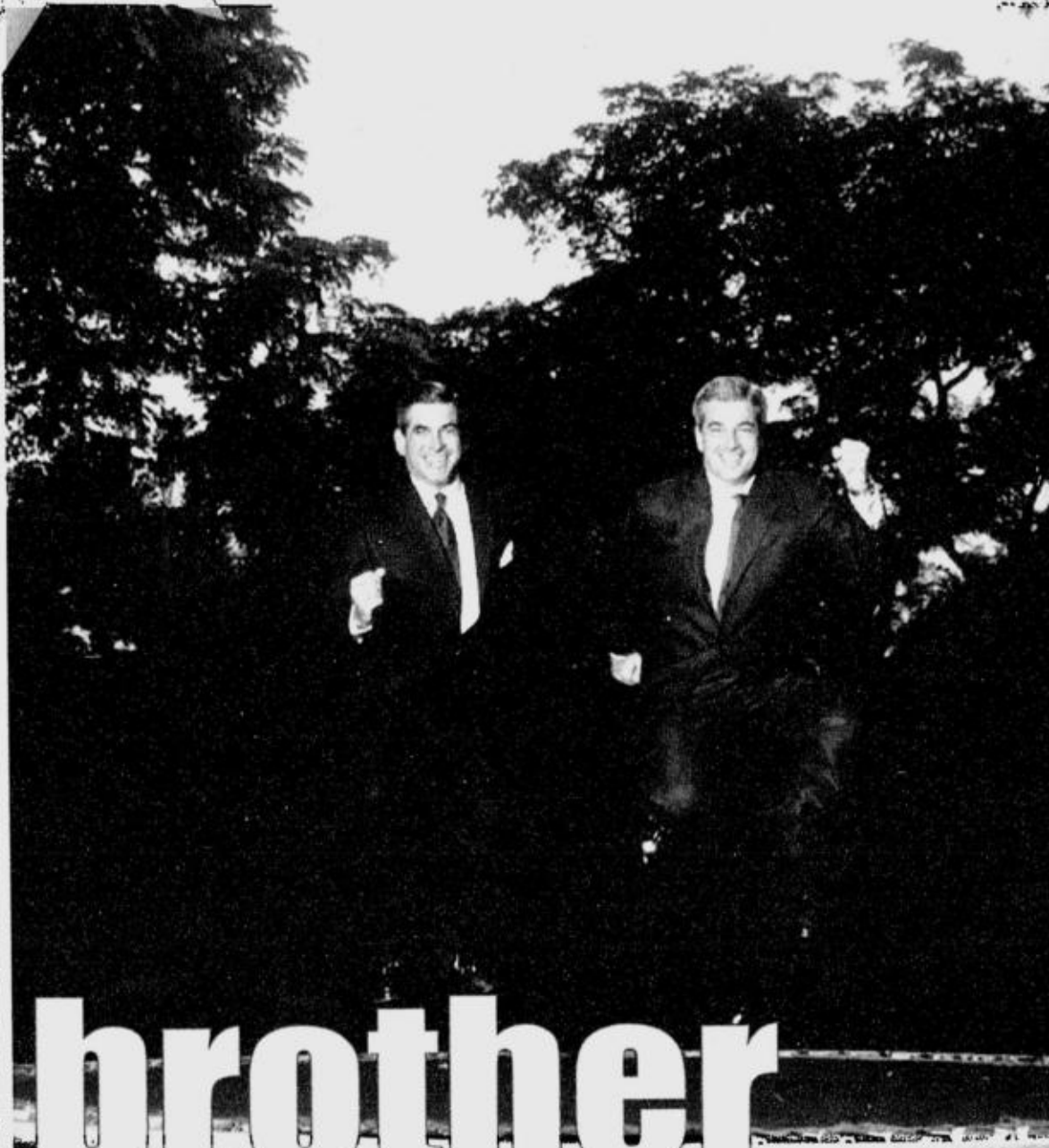
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Creative Director Tim Yap

style . urban living .

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oh brother

Super! raids the Big Brother house
uncensored with
Uma, Nene, Sam and Say

55 portraits, One Light
and the magic of
Tom Epperson

Photography: TOM EPPERSON
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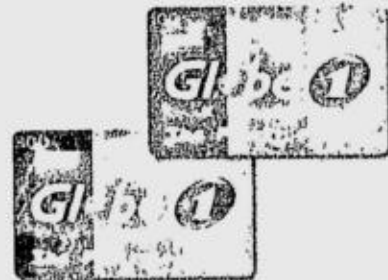
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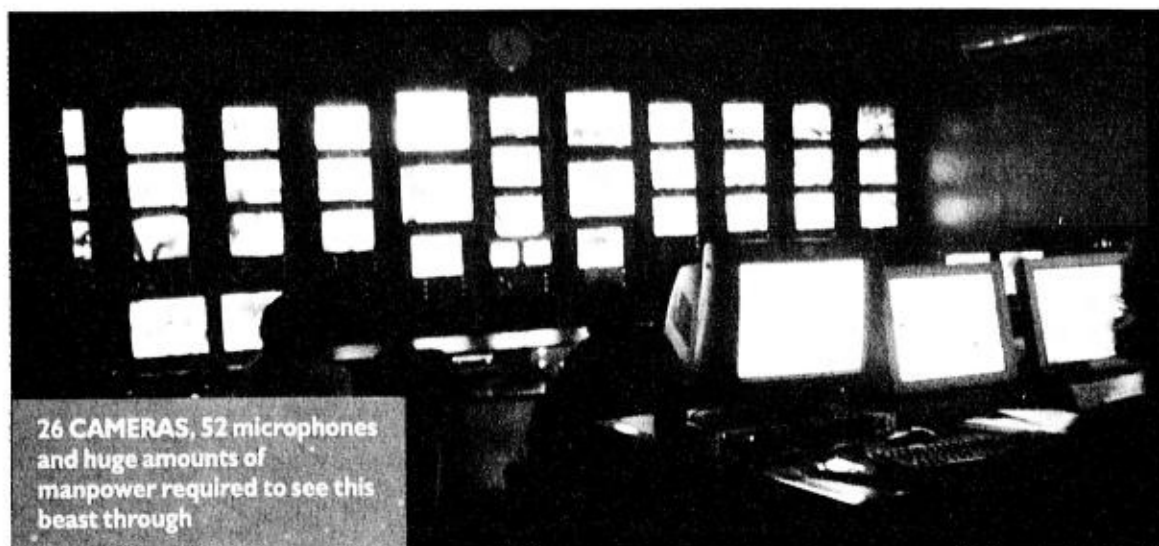
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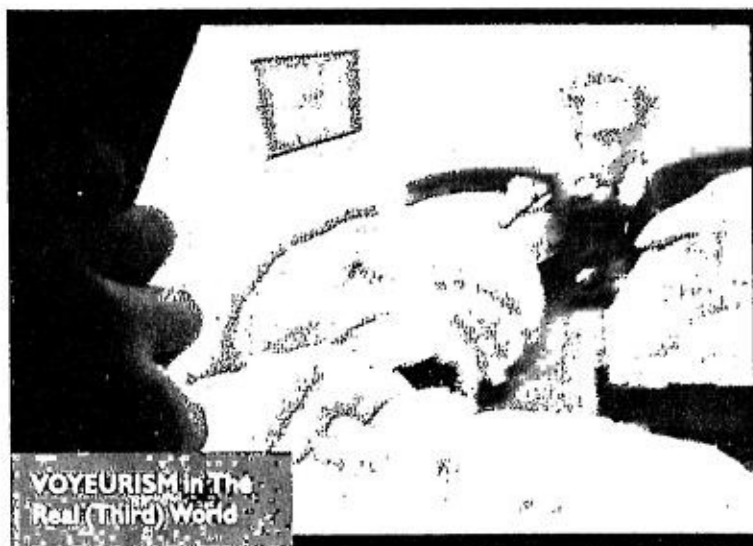
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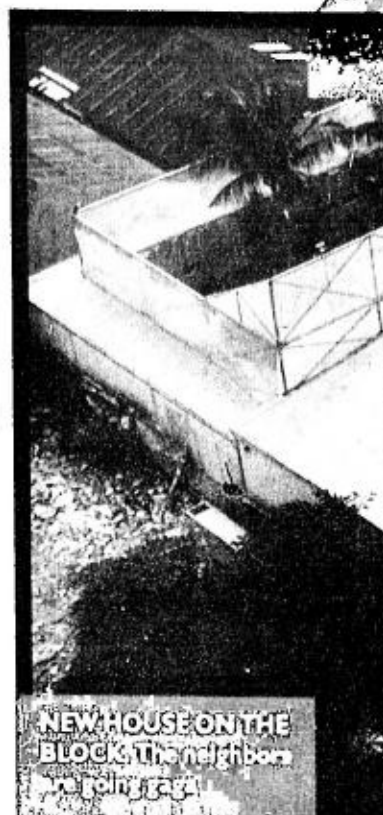
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26 CAMERAS, 52 microphones and huge amounts of manpower required to see this beast through



VOYEURISM in the Real (Third) World



NEW HOUSE ON THE BLOCK: The neighbors are in for a surprise

It's fun playing God

THIS IS THE TRUE story of twelve strangers, picked to live in a bugged bungalow in Quezon City to find out what happens when Pinoys stop saying *po* and start locking lips with each other, and this is not "Girls Gone Wild" I'm talking about ... *po* ...

A moment of silence, please. The noise you hear is me mangling the naggingly familiar tagline of MTV's "The Real World." If you have no clue what the heck it is I'm talking about, stop making spit bubbles and start Googling.

And so I continue.

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Extended voyeurism

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Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

Photos by Rodel Rotoni
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS BY JAMES GABRILLO

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derivative at first. Locking up a dozen human lab rats, letting the mess soak and broadcasting the result isn't the far out brainchild it used to be. Neither is removing all forms of distraction: TV, newspapers, radio, cell phones and the Internet. (That would be Sagada on any given day. Chuckle.)

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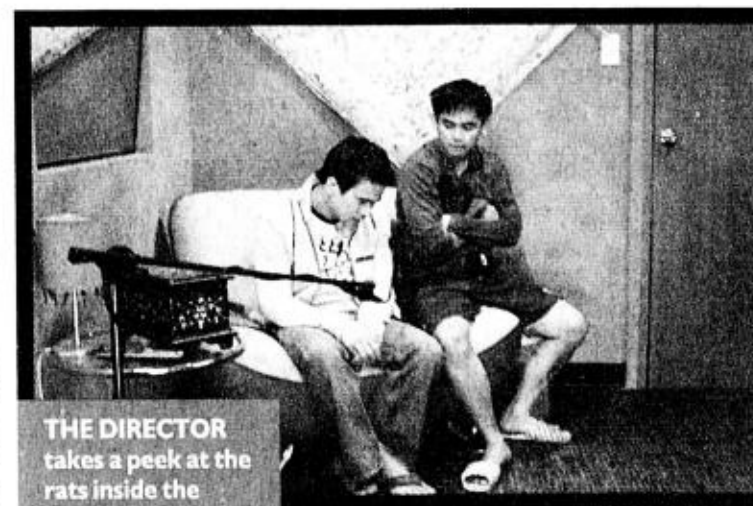
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The Real (Third) World

Compared to the audition processes of other reality or talent searches, where looks are given the highest premium, the PBB producers hunted for interesting personalities.

"I feel we came up with a good mix," Linggit tells me. Given my experience watching these ensemble reality shows, though, it's inevitable for characters to fall into stereotypes: the hot chick who's dumber than a box of



THE DIRECTOR takes a peek at the rats inside the laboratory



crayons, the perky simpleton who says things like "Dito na me," the dude with nice abs and porn star hair, the dingbat with questionable sexual preferences, the pit-bull bitch, and so on.

I renamed this program "The Real (Third) World" in the windmills of my mind 'cause I couldn't help it. Since this was meant to be a microcosm of Pinoy society, was it a prerequisite for the housemates to come with free sob stories? Does one's social status play a role in "Pinoy Big Brother?"

Sympathy vote

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"Less talk, less mistakes," JB realizes. "And also I'll try harder to get along with people."

Director Lauren Dyogi has been guiding JB since the eviction and the two have been seen on other ABS-CBN shows on some damage control mission.

"I think his behavior was an effect of him being caged in. It must be traumatizing and disorienting for an outgoing person like JB to be suddenly forced to stay put and interact with people he didn't necessarily like," Lauren explains. Then again, if this is real life, why should he apologize for his thoughts, feelings and actions?

"It's the Pinoy culture," rationalizes our director. "Local audiences can't take someone who is too upfront, honest or *mayabang*." More than that, though, I found

Is Pinoy Big Brother a worthwhile experiment on human behavior or a new low in dumbed down television? 'Ipakita sa MTRCB, er, sa mundo!'

out JB wants to be liked because he plans to start a showbiz career. Ah, the remorse makes sense now.

Who's your Kuya?

On that note then, how real can one get when you know you're being watched? And are the housemates really like that, or were they just edited that way?

"The housemates are conscious of the cameras during the first few weeks, but they soon forget they're being filmed," answers Direk. "They haven't failed me in terms of a storyline. Production-wise, we don't have complete control of things. If you get the right people, you'll get a good show."

For example, whether underdog Franzen's tearful money shots are genuine or tied up in a ratings-friendly ribbon is exactly what becomes muddled as the

In the beginning... I ran out of titles

By James Gabrillo

WELCOME TO the most family-friendly thing to hit the telebox since 7th Heaven (the first few seasons, before Jessica Biel and Beverly Mitchell hit puberty)—the cornucopia of human oddity we lovingly call Amazing Race Family Edition. I mean, Pinoy Big Brother!

For the past three weeks, I have received tons of angry e-mails, calls, letters, and death threats (OK, I made that up for sympathy) from disappointed Super! readers who asked why the first weekly recap was never followed up. This is all overwhelming and cool, but people, calm down and get a life! There are so many other things to do out there. Put on some clothes, go to the nearest MRT station and go somewhere!

On to the main dish!

The housemates have been inside the hiz-ouse for around 38,765 days and so far we've seen a couple part ways, drunk peeps making out, and the arrival of a new human being—ice-skating toothpaste-endorsing person Sam. The last one hyped up a little the house, particularly It-Talks-Like-A-Girl, It-Shrieks-Like-A-Girl, It's-Gotta-Be Uma-The-Head-

Will JB and Say live happily ever after? Why does Cass love conserving fabric? When will Chx finally utter complete sentences on her own? Do all these matter in the greater scheme of things?

band-Man, who told Sam, "I like you. You've changed us! Ever since you got here, we became super close!" Um, please don't draw any conclusions, people! (Wait, I just did three seconds ago.)

Nene

Nene celebrated her 24th birthday with a surprise debut-like shindig wearing a gown that made viewers gasp and say, "Geez, now that's a gown." If a friend from a foreign country comes here for a visit and asks you, "What is gown?"—just point to that one Nene wore. Meanwhile, because of her ultra-active and over-perky ways, she has been dubbed by the other housemates as Nene-izer, named after the Energizer bunny—which I find almost impossible

to believe. Nene-izer? Is that really the best we can do, peeps? It's almost 2006!

Points for being Let's Get Physical! Physical! Let Me Hear Your Body Talk! Body Talk!: 40

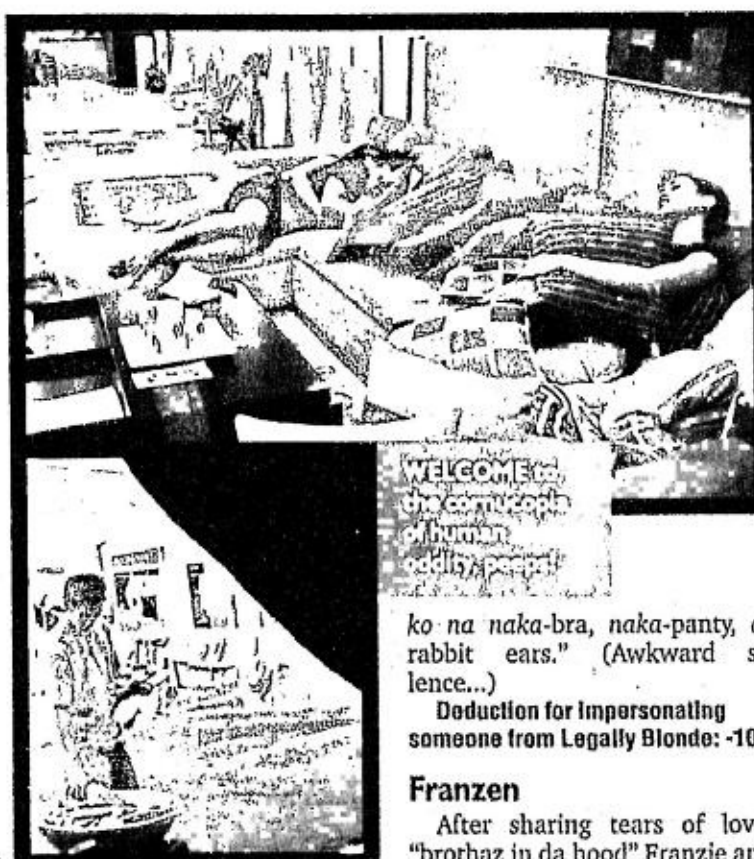
Bob

Bobbie Joe the politician rarely talks and moves, but when he does, bad crappy stuff comes out as he enjoys dissing other housemates who use their gift of speech. Note to future contestants: "Often Being Excessively Whiny" is not fun to watch! Sure, the guy knows how to play the game, but I'm predicting that in no time, he'll tumble and roll down in limbo like Jack and Jill and the stone of Sisyphus. And yes, I write fluid prose like this on my own. Also, it is of great importance to note that when tasked to cheer up Say, Bobby and girlfriend Nene chose to sing a sappy Jamie Rivera cornball, which is almost pleasingly melodramatic or just crushingly depressing. Perhaps Bobee and Nene are offering us an inadvertent peek into their CD collections. Any Enya in there? I say yes!

You're Borling-All-You-Do-Is Annoy-Us-Get-Out-Get-Out Deduction: 90

Uma

During the program to cheer up Say, Uma did not sing Jamie Rivera or anything from the Iranian classic opera, "Kzichy Rf-glodix," which is really too bad. On the other hand, for his sheer honesty, Uma walks away with the crown (yes, we give crowns



ko na naka-bra, naka-panty, at rabbit ears." (Awkward silence...)

Deduction for impersonating someone from Legally Blonde: -100

Franzen

After sharing tears of love, "brothaz in da hood" Franzie and Jason have been seen in uncomfortable situations as they play perky games at night, rolling on the floor, taking off their clothes, running around, and giggling like school girls—images that will be burned forever in my memory. Meanwhile, the housemates all seem to be gaining loads of pounds except Frannie—who I would think would need to be in the house for another twelve to thirteen years before achieving his ideal weight. Still, Fran-Fran is the only genuinely amusing person in the house, so I guess

that calls for a, um, hooray!!

Points for Duh-Guess-Who's-Gonna-Win-It-All: 50

Racquel

Anyone who refers to himself/herself as "fun" and "cute" is to be avoided at all costs. Um, period.

(Intentionally gross) "I often talk horny." (Another ABS-CBN pang-pamilya moment, folks!)

(Seeking votes) "Sana na-enjoy niyo ang panonood na akin—yung mga times na napayak ko kayo, napatawa, napasaya. Sana na-enjoy niyo yun!" (When? What? Huh?! The heat's getting to you, Ate. Think again.)

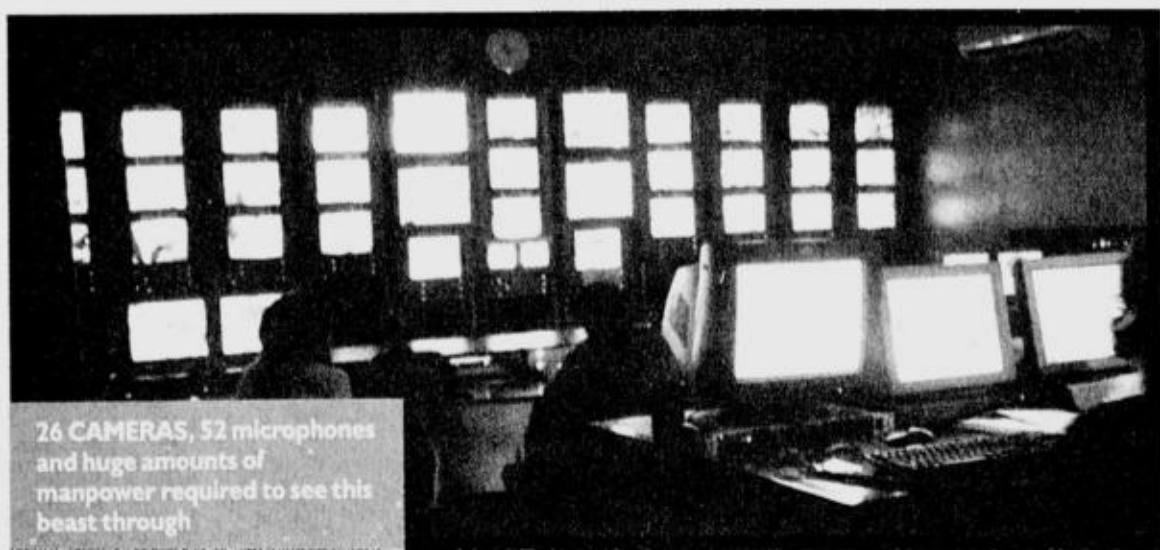
Who-Are-These-People-That-Vote-For-Her-And-Why-Do-They-Torture-Us Deduction: -500

Sam

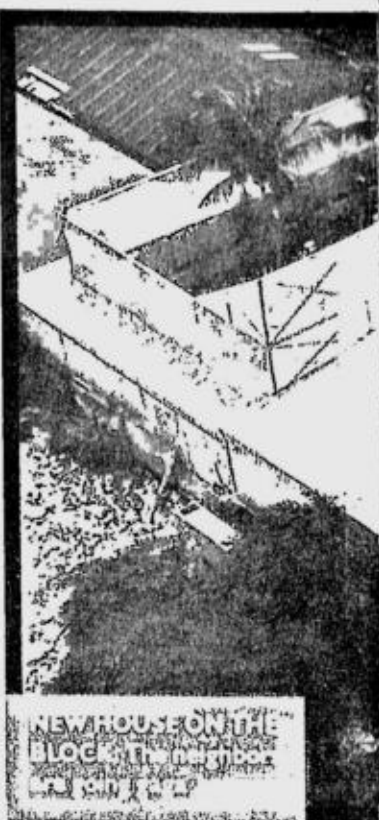
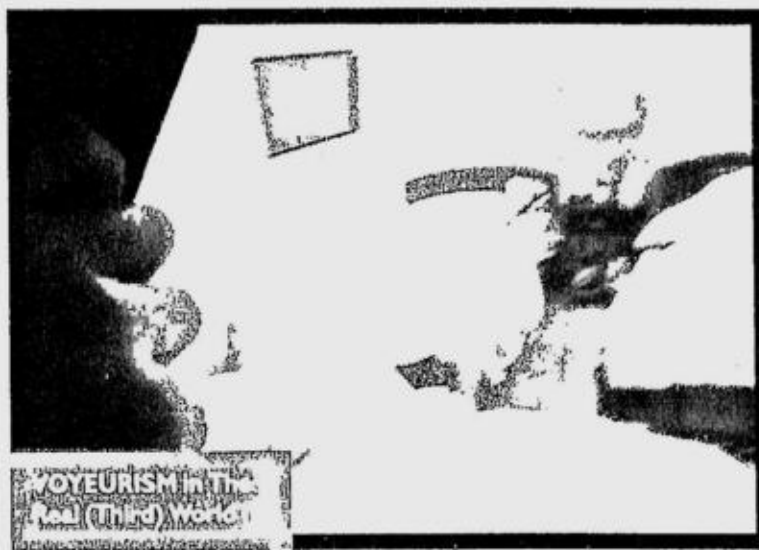
The new kid on the block (Ooh! An '80s reference!) was off to a terrible start when he performed (in whole, with a guitar accompaniment) the hit song of the best band in the universe, Cueshe. Inflicted with the sorrow caused by said song, I turned off the TV and jumped out the window. Samie further exhibited his attachment to emotional cheese sandwiches when he sang Hale's "The Day You Said Goodnight," a song we all secretly love but hate to admit. (We? We? You mean "I," dork!)

Deduction for singing Cueshe and Hale songs: -60

I'd Be A Hypocrite If I Didn't Give A Rellund: 60



26 CAMERAS, 52 microphones and huge amounts of manpower required to see this beast through



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PHOTOS BY ROGER ROTE

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"Less talk, less mistakes," JB realizes. "And also I'll try harder to get along with people."

Director Lauren Dyogi has been guiding JB since the eviction and the two have been seen on other ABS-CBN shows on some damage control mission.

"I think his behavior was an effect of him being caged in. It must be traumatizing and disorienting for an outgoing person like JB to be suddenly forced to stay put and interact with people he didn't necessarily like," Lauren explains. Then again, if this is real life, why should he apologize for his thoughts, feelings and actions?

"It's the Pinoy culture," rationalizes our director. "Local audiences can't take someone who is too upfront, honest or *mayabang*." More than that, though, I found

Is Pinoy Big Brother a worthwhile experiment on human behavior or a new low in dumbed down television? 'Ipakita sa MTRCB, er, sa mundo!'

out JB wants to be liked because he plans to start a showbiz career. Ah, the remorse makes sense.

Who's your Kuya?

On that note then, how real one get when you know you're being watched? And are the housemates really like that, or were they just edited that way?

"The housemates are conscious of the cameras during the first weeks, but they soon forget they're being filmed," answers rek. "They haven't failed in terms of a storyline. Product-wise, we don't have complete control of things. If you get the people, you'll get a good show."

For example, whether a dog Franzen's tearful moments are genuine or tied up ratings-friendly ribbon is exactly what becomes muddled as

By James Gabrillo

WELCOME TO the most family-friendly thing to hit the telebox since 7th Heaven (the first few seasons, before Jessica Biel and Beverly Mitchell hit puberty)—the cornucopia of human oddity we lovingly call Amazing Race Family Edition. I mean, Pinoy Big Brother!

For the past three weeks, I have received tons of angry e-mails, calls, letters, and death threats (OK, I made that up for sympathy) from disappointed Super! readers who asked why the first weekly recap was never followed up. This is all overwhelming and cool, but people, calm down and get a life! There are so many other things to do out there. Put on some clothes, go to the nearest MRT station and go somewhere!

On to the main dish!

The housemates have been inside the hiz-ouse for around 38,765 days and so far we've seen a couple part ways, drunk peeps making out, and the arrival of a new human being—ice-skating toothpaste-endorsing person Sam. The last one hyped up a little the house, particularly It-Talks-Like-A-Girl, It-Shrieks-Like-A-Girl, It's-Gotta-Be Uma-The-Head-

Will JB and Say live happily ever after? Why does Cass love conserving fabric? When will Chx finally utter complete sentences on her own? Do all these matter in the greater scheme of things?

band-Man, who told Sam, "I like you. You've changed us! Ever since you got here, we became super close!" Um, please don't draw any conclusions, people! (Wait, I just did three seconds ago.)

Nene

Nene celebrated her 24th birthday with a surprise debut-like shindig wearing a gown that made viewers gasp and say, "Geez, now that's a gown." If a friend from a foreign country comes here for a visit and asks you, "What is gown?"—just point to that one Nene wore. Meanwhile, because of her ultra-active and over-perky ways, she has been dubbed by the other housemates as Nene-izer, named after the Energizer bunny—which I find almost impossible

to believe. Nene-izer? Is that really the best we can do, peeps? It's almost 2006!

Points for being Let's Get Physical! Physical! Let Me Hear Your Body Talk! Body Talk! 40

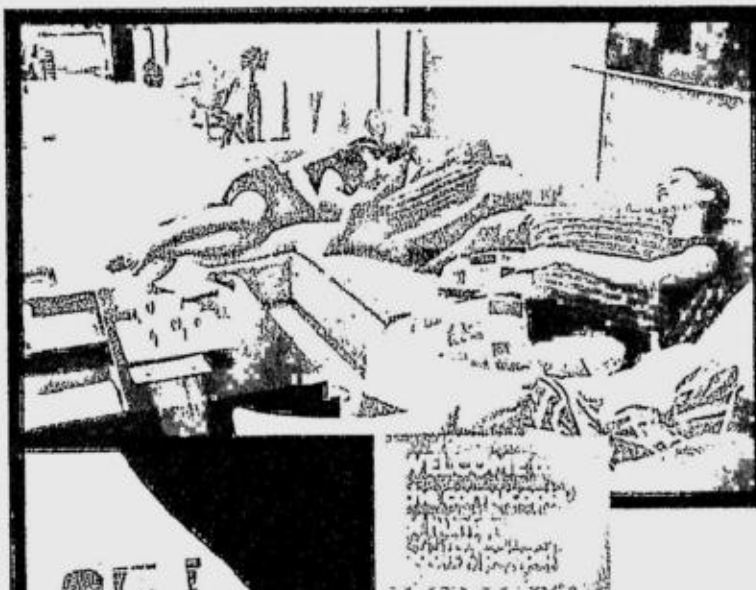
Bob

Bobbie Joe the politician rarely talks and moves, but when he does, bad crappy stuff comes out as he enjoys dissing other housemates who use their gift of speech. Note to future contestants: "Often Being Excessively Whiny" is not fun to watch! Sure, the guy knows how to play the game, but I'm predicting that in no time, he'll tumble and roll down in limbo like Jack and Jill and the stone of Sisyphus. And yes, I write fluid prose like this on my own. Also, it is of great importance to note that when tasked to cheer up Say, Bobby and gal-friend Nene chose to sing a sappy Jamie Rivera cornball, which is almost pleasingly melodramatic or just crushingly depressing. Perhaps Bobee and Nene are offering us an inadvertent peek into their CD collections. Any Enya in there? I say yes!

You're-Boring-All-You-Do-Is-Annoy-Us-Get-Out-Get-Out Deduction: -90

Uma

During the program to cheer up Say, Uma did not sing Jamie Rivera or anything from the Iranian classic opera, "Kzichy Rf-glodix," which is really too bad. On the other hand, for his sheer honesty, Uma walks away with the crown (yes, we give crowns



ko na naka-bra, naka-panty, at rabbit ears." (Awkward silence...)

Deduction for impersonating someone from Legally Blonde: -100

Franzen

After sharing tears of love, "brothaz in da hood" Franzie and Jason have been seen in uncomfortable situations as they play perky games at night, rolling on the floor, taking off their clothes, running around, and giggling like school girls—images that will be burned forever in my memory. Meanwhile, the housemates all seem to be gaining loads of pounds except Frannie—who I would think would need to be in the house for another twelve to thirteen years before achieving his ideal weight. Still, Fran-Fran is the only genuinely amusing person in the house, so I guess

now) for Best Quotes of the Week.

(Randomly, without any prompting) "Sa kaka-ecstasy ko dude, wala na akong utak." (Um, no way, Uma. We could've told you that.)

(Backstabbing) "Cass is the cheapest sexy star!" (Now don't sugarcoat it, Umzie, tell us how you really feel.)

(Perky) "Oh my god! Oh my god! Oh my god, nangangatil!" (Pleading to Big Bro) "Wag na wag niyong ipapakita yung picture

that calls for a, um, hooray!! Points for Duh-Guess-Who's Gonna-Win-It-All: 50

Racquel

Anyone who refers to himself/herself as "fun" and "cute" is to be avoided at all costs. Um, period.

(Intentionally gross) "I often talk horny." (Another ABS-CBN pang-pamilya moment, folks!)

(Seeking votes) "Sana na-enjoy niyo ang panonood sa akin—yung mga times na napayak ko kayo, napatawa, napasaya. Sana na-enjoy niyo yun!" (When? What? Huh? The heart's getting to you, A? Think again.)

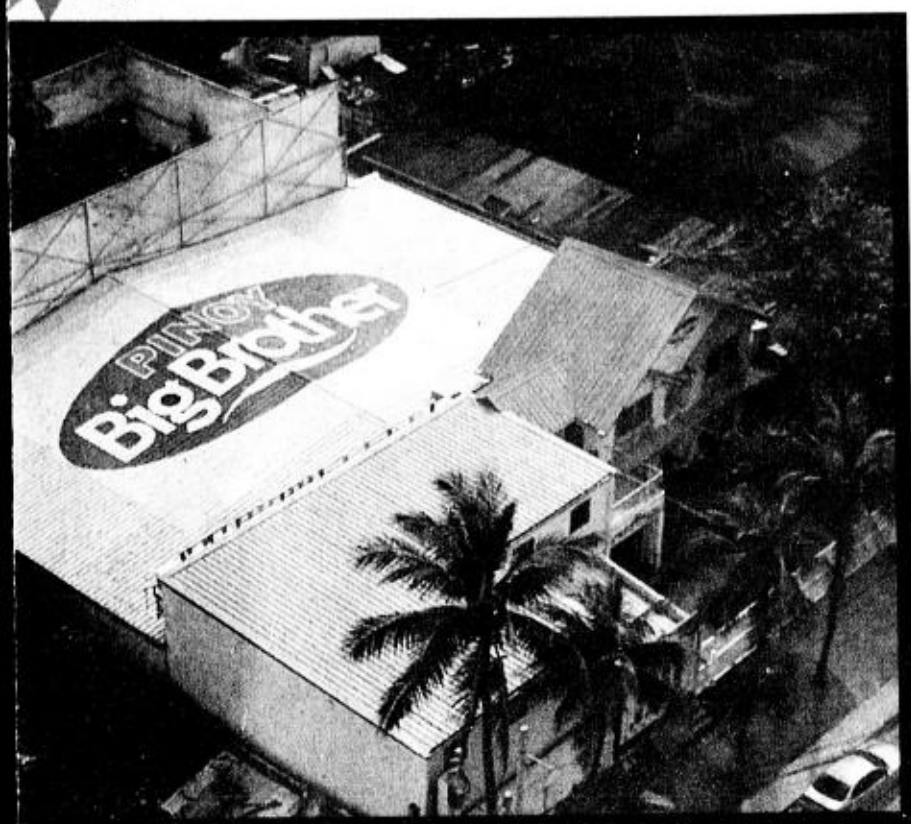
Who-Are-These-People-That-Vote-For-Her-And-Why-Do-They-Torture-Us Deduction: -500

Sam

The new kid on the block (Ooh! An '80s reference!) was off to a terrible start when he performed (in whole, with a guitar accompaniment) the song of the best band in the universe, Cueshe. Inflicted with the sorrow caused by said song, I turned off the TV and jumped out the window. Sam further exhibited his attachment to emotional cheese sandwiches when he sang Hale's "The Day You Said Goodnight," a song we all secretly love but hate to admit (We? We? We mean "I," don't we?)

Deduction for singing Cueshe and Hale songs: -60

I'd Be A Hypocrite If I Didn't Give A Refund: 60



contestant's isolated, fabricated world develops into a disturbing form of reality. Not so real? There's the rub, as well as the show's dimension and texture.

"Uma knows how to play. Bob knows how to play. After all it's a PSM game." Lauren reveals that although this is tagged as a "teleserye ng totoong buhay," it's safe to assume that several housemates know this is also a competition for fame and possible fortune.

Pinoy Big Brotherhood

Whether it's a golden fishbowl or a septic tank, "Pinoy Big Brother" has proven to be a hit among viewers. It could be because the show acts like a live action screen saver or a human ant farm, with someone clearly playing God and having fun doing it. More than traditional voyeurism, however, another major draw could be its relative newness. It's possible that eyeballs are weary of scripted melodrama and want something lighter, more organic and sort of spontaneous.

PBB mania has also spilled over to the online community. My astute powers of research reveal that a PBB Google search will yield 113,000 results, with bits about the show appearing on various blogs, news sites, photo galleries and message boards.

Surveys show, however, that GMA's "Sugo" still trumps "Pinoy Big Brother" in the ratings game. When asked about this, Lauren Dyogi says he'd rather listen to "immediate feedback than figures." Going by the ubiquity of the show's song, "Pinoy Ako" by Orange and Lemons, the number of PBB videocaps making their electronic rounds, and the sheer buzz surrounding the show, "Pinoy Big Brother" is one of those shows you either love or hate. It's that kind of impact—and de-

bate—that sleeper hits are made of.

Big Lola vs Big Brother

Speaking of debates, the MTRCB has urged "Pinoy Big Brother" to rethink its concept, saying "conservative sectors find [the program] less acceptable." Censors chief Marissa Laguardia was referring to a Sept. 19 episode that showed a "kissing scene between Chx and Sam, gyrating dances in skimpy bikini and double entendre." Really, that sounded like "Big Brother Lite" compared to what's going on elsewhere. And aren't bikinis supposed to be skimpy? Just a thought.

Anyway, since I'm in a philosophically charged mood now, I'd like to move the discussion on by saying that morality, like language, is not a fixed line. With the way things are now, it's more appropriate to see it as a moving target.

With that in mind, we shouldn't treat a show like "Pinoy Big Brother" as a babysitter for kids or a replacement for interaction among family members. That would be a cop out. Neither should we take it as a sign that our country's morals are rapidly going down the toilet. That would be self-righteous. Like it or not, as a society of responsible couch commandoes, we should go back to the root of this whole reality TV business and see "Pinoy Big Brother" as life through a lens, one that offers piercing insights into our own reality.

Perhaps old school peeps, those who are quick to say that this is not our culture, are merely scared to acknowledge the changes that are taking place today. Since one's reactions to the show reveal more about themselves and their personal biases than they do about the show itself, maybe they're just afraid to look in the mirror and finally face the truth.

Special thanks to director Laurent Dyogi, Linggit Tan, and the entire team behind Pinoy Big Brother for giving Super! an exclusive (and extremely surreal) tour inside the PBB house. We promise to keep the show's secrets! Catch PBB every day at 10 p.m. at ABS-CBN.

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Send your stories and be featured on GMA-7's Unang Hirit!

Mechanics:

- Promo period runs from September 26 - December 4, 2005. Only entries received by November 25, 2005 will be included in the promo.
- To qualify, candidates must be 30 years old and above and must be an ANLENE drinker.
- Consumers can send in their own story or the story of someone they know. Stories must be about real-life experiences that celebrate physical strength or recovery from certain medical conditions and how ANLENE has been instrumental in living life to the fullest.
- Send your stories, preferably typewritten, to:
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The prize is awarded to the one who nominated the candidate.
- Criteria for judging will be as follows:
* Relevance to ANLENE (ANLENE's role in his/her story) - 50%
* Uniqueness of story - 40%
* Significance of photograph or video to the story - 10%

7. Weekly story finalists will be read and reenacted on Unang Hirit every Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting Oct. 10. There will be 3 finalists per week for 7 weeks and 2 finalists on the 8th or final week, with a total of 23 finalists.

8. New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. with a BFAD representative will choose one Grand Prize winner, one Second Prize winner and one Third Prize winner from the 23 finalists.

9. Final awarding of prizes will be held at SOP on December 4, 2005.

10. All photographs and videos sent as entries will become the property of New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. and may be used for publicity purposes.

11. In case of dispute, the decision of New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. with the concurrence of BFAD shall be deemed final.

12. A consumer can send in as many stories, but a finalist can only win once.

13. All winners will be notified via phone call and registered mail.

14. All prizes are not convertible to cash. But Slimmers World memberships are transferable.

15. All prizes are tax-free.

16. All winners can claim their prizes from the New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. office within 60 days of notification. Prizes not claimed within 60 days shall be forfeited in favor of New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. with prior approval of BFAD.

17. Employees of New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc., its advertising agencies and affiliates, down to the 2nd degree of affinity and consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1143 Series of 2005

MORE TREATS FOR A MERRIER CHRISTMAS

With the 'brrrr' months upon us, the Yuletide season can't be far behind. And with the holidays comes the task of completing one's Christmas list, an undertaking which can be very daunting especially in these difficult times. But Christmas shopping need not be a stressful chore, especially when you start off on the right foot.

If you are privileged to own a Metrobank Credit Card, a way to de-stress your Christmas shopping is to take advantage of the perks that come with using your 'M Here card by buying gift items at 'M Here-specific boutiques all over the metro. Be the sweetest stocking-stuffer with freebies and discounts galore from boutiques such as Celine, Replay, MEMO and even more! For larger purchases (a television for Dad? A DVD player for your significant other? An MP3 player for yourself?), 'M Here cardholders can plug into the power of the perks from the country's largest appliance stores: Apple Center, BOSE, Avid, Abenson's and many others!

You've probably heard it before: never shop on an empty stomach. Many fall victim to excessive retail therapy due to hungry bellies, buying extra gifts 'just in case'. Before embarking on a holiday shopping spree, drop by your favorite restaurant or café and load up on some yummy for your tummy. Metrobank Credit Card holders can maximize their pre-shopping dining experience with their 'M Here card. To get a taste of the crème de la crème of the culinary crop at very affordable prices, flash your card at 'M Here-specific establishments for palatable privileges and perks. Sink your sweet tooth into a free serving of French macaroons from Bizu, load up on a free glass of red wine and dessert from Museum Café, feast on free dessert from Burgoo and so much more!

Most importantly, after a bout of budget-wrestling and gift-hunting, it is essential to reward yourself with an hour or two at a spa or wellness center. But these indulgences need not be expensive — 'M Here cardholders get the most pampered and privileged deals from the country's premier wellness centers.

Get free facial treatments from Clarity Aesthetic Center, a free back massage from the Urban Spa, as well as discounts galore from other health and beauty establishments located all over the metro! Christmas should be a season of cheer and good times, not holiday headaches. This early in the year, get into the holiday habit and check that Christmas list to stuff your loved ones' stockings, sans the stress and the hassle. Get ahead of the gift-giving game with your Metrobank Credit Card. When it comes to perks, privileges, discounts and freebies, there's Metrobank 'M Here.

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NOT YOUR USUAL PHOTO. Jaime and Fernando Zobel with their BMW motorcycles



The spotlight on One Light

First solo exhibition by photographer Tom Epperson

By Lour de Veyra

WHY PORTRAITS? HE INSISTS: "IN THE WORLD, THERE ARE what you might call 'true characters.' There's something about them that fascinates you. You just can't take your eyes off them—and it's not just a beauty thing." This inexplicable, arresting quality in people is what Tom Epperson aims to evoke in his photographs.



Epperson, an American based in the Philippines for the past 18 years, has become one of the industry's most sought-after print and advertising photographers. His photographs—which have appeared in countless publications including Pulp, Metro, Preview, Mega, Philippine Tatler, The Philippine Yearbook, Newsweek, LifeStyle Asia, Manual, among countless others—are known for their technical polish, balance of color, sense of composition, and richness of detail and texture.

Now Epperson brings some of his most memorable portraits in his first solo exhibition, "One Light."

It is titled as such because all the pictures, except for one shot, were photographed using only a single light source. Epperson is fascinated with this kind of lighting, how it allows for the interplay with shadows, thereby evoking distinct moods and emotions. Except for two, all these pictures were taken using a film camera. "Digital is perfect for business," he stresses. "But for my personal work, I'm definitely more comfortable using film. It has that certain magic—that element where you don't know if you have something or not."

"One Light" features more than 55 portraits of a wide list of personalities, from business tycoons to rock musicians to fashion models to movie stars to writers to athletes to ordinary folk. Each photograph runs the gamut of moods, moving from stylish to haunting to quirky to realistic documentary.

Epperson believes that each photograph captures a never before seen side of a subject. For instance: business magnate Andres Soriano's rough Hemingway-esque portrait replete with rolled-up collar and cigarette tucked on the lips; heavily tattooed band frontman Karl Roy is captured in a tranquil, almost meditative moment; Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala looking mysterious and monastic; sexy actress Priscilla Almada in a sacred-profane pose wearing angel wings while smoking a cigarette; Tim Yap lying innocent and child-like in bed; Jaime and Fernando Zobel de Ayala looking cool and adventurous with their BMW motorcycles; an extremely somber Pepe Smith vanishing in shadows and fog of cigarette smoke; and many others.

"People usually see the fame first before they see the photograph," he says. "My photographs take these same famous persons and to make them more human... to try to find something that everyone else can relate to."

Epperson has been known to use various strategies to motivate his subjects, from massaging them to telling them to scream, or instructing them to close their eyes and ask them "to think about their last orgasm."

"The challenge is for people to give me something that they usually wouldn't share," he adds.

"One Light" opens with cocktails at 6 p.m. on Oct. 18 at the Glass Tower of the Ayala Museum. Show runs until Nov. 2. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. This show is sponsored by Epson, E.S. Print Media, Oxford Suites and Zen Asia.

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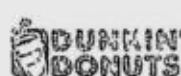


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